

Advocacy Action Network

Kentucky Mental Health Coalition ♦ Kentucky Medicaid Consortium
Kentuckians for Health Care Reform ♦ United 874K Disabilities Coalition

April 4, 2013

Lawrence Klossner, Commissioner
Department for Medicaid Services
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Klossner,

On behalf of the coalitions which are part of the Advocacy Action Network (and are described on the attached page) and the hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians for whom we advocate, I am writing to urge Governor Steve Beshear to take action which will result in the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky to 138% of the federal poverty level. This opportunity – made available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – will extend health care coverage to more than 300,000 Kentuckians.

The Commonwealth has been mired for years in an endless cycle of poverty, low educational achievement, and poor health. All of these are inextricably linked with each other and affect the quality of life available to Kentuckians. They also result in diminished opportunity to produce the healthy and well-educated workforce that we need for improved and sustainable economic growth...our ticket out of poverty.


Reducing by one-half the number of Kentuckians who are uninsured and are, therefore, unable to access health care services when they first need them will not only raise the level of good health in the Commonwealth, but will result in cost-savings as well. Many of these Kentuckians are among the "working poor" who do not have health insurance available to them.

Our coalition members know full well the value of the Medicaid program in addressing the needs of those with behavioral health diagnoses and disabilities of all kinds. While the transition to managed care for members and providers has been marred by significant problems in access and reimbursement, we are hopeful that the Medicaid Expansion will be implemented in such a way that these same issues are not encountered.

The predilections of individuals to be served, health outcomes to be achieved, economic growth to be realized, and quality of life to be enjoyed all point to a simple conclusion: Medicaid Expansion is good for Kentucky's health, good for Kentucky's economy, and good for Kentucky's people! We look forward to Governor Beshear's action to make this a reality!

Thank you for your consideration. Our coalition leaders and members stand ready to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,


Sheila A. Schuster, Ph.D.
Executive Director

120 Sears Avenue, Suite 212 ♦ Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 894-0222 ♦ Toll Free: (877) 894-0222 ♦ Fax: (502) 894-0635
actionoffice@bellsouth.net ♦ www.AdvocacyAction.net



Advocacy Action Network

*Kentucky Mental Health Coalition ♦ Kentucky Medicaid Consortium
Kentuckians for Health Care Reform ♦ United 874K Disabilities Coalition*

KY MENTAL HEALTH COALITION (KMHC) – This coalition was established in 1982 by nine mental health organizations to support collaboration and to speak with one advocacy voice for the prevention and treatment of mental illness and the promotion of mental health. In 2003, the KMHC membership approved a reframed and broadened mission: To bring together the collective voices of consumers, family members, advocates and providers to educate the public, to engage policy makers and to increase the resources necessary to address the Commonwealth's human service needs while improving the mental health and well-being of all Kentuckians. Voting membership in KMHC is limited to organizations, 80 of which are current members; individuals may also join. The member organizations pay annual dues which vary as to whether they are statewide or local and whether they are advocacy organizations, service delivery agencies or professional associations.

KENTUCKY MEDICAID CONSORTIUM – This group was initially begun in 2000 to respond to federal threats to significantly cut funding from the federal level to state Medicaid programs. As initially organized, the Consortium worked on both federal and state funding issues, as well as focusing on the need for improved access to quality services. Out of the Consortium meetings grew a coalition with particular emphasis on assuring Kentucky's children access to healthcare services through KCHIP, and a coalition with particular focus on long-term care issues. After a period of relative inactivity, the Consortium was reorganized and renewed in 2005, in response to the initiative of the Fletcher Administration to draft and file a "super waiver" transforming Kentucky's Medicaid program. The membership of the Consortium, currently at 70 organizations, is open to any group which endorses the Consortium's principles; there are no dues for members.

THE UNITED 874K DISABILITIES COALITION (874K) – Established in 2001, this coalition seeks to bring together and strengthen the voices of the growing number of Kentuckians (874,000-plus) who are identified as having a disability which interferes with activities of daily living. The 874K Disabilities Coalition is comprised of organizations representing individuals with disabilities, their family members, advocates, providers and concerned citizens. The advocacy events sponsored by 874K are held in Frankfort during the legislative session with the goal of giving individuals affected by disabilities the opportunity to meet the Governor and key Cabinet officials, their state legislators and staff, and the media. Typical attendance is between 700 and 1,000 individuals from all parts of Kentucky. Sponsorship opportunities for these advocacy events are offered to organizations wishing to contribute to support 874K's mission and vision for full inclusion of all individuals with disabilities.

KENTUCKIANS FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM (KHCR) – This coalition was organized in 1993 in response to Governor Brereton Jones' call for bold new initiatives to make health care affordable and accessible to all Kentuckians. KHCR wrote and adopted principles against which all proposals for reform were judged. The Coalition has been recognized by legislators, the administration, insurers, providers, and the media as being the voice of consumers of health care services in Kentucky. The membership of KHCR has included a number of health-related and disabilities-related organizations, as well as faith-based, civic and educational groups. There are no dues for membership. KHCR leadership was instrumental in the lawsuit which recovered \$45M from Anthem to establish the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Currently, KHCR is working closely with *KY Voices for Health* and with the Foundation to increase coverage for Kentucky's 639,000+ uninsured.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS:

120 Sears Avenue, Suite 212 ♦ Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 894-0222 ♦ Toll Free: (877) 894-0222 ♦ Fax: (502) 894-0635
actionoffice@bellsouth.net ♦ www.AdvocacyAction.net

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Kentucky Chapter

March 26, 2013

420 Capital Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601
Office: 502.876-2205
Fax: 502.223-4200
Cell: 502.320-2660
E-mail: maryyork@kyaap.org

Chapter Website:
www.kyaap.org

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Chapter Executive Committee

President
Eric Bosley, MD, FAAP

Vice President
Kimberly Boland, MD, FAAP

Secretary/Treasurer
Rob Tegher, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President
Stephen Church, MD, FAAP

Chapter Executive Director
Mary P. York

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, KY Chapter, I would like to encourage you to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in the Commonwealth. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Bosley, MD, FAAP

President, KY AAP Chapter

Healthcare is a right,
not a privilege!



LEARN MORE AT COVERAGE-COUNTS.ORG

Governor Steve Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

On behalf of our organizations that represent thousands of patients with chronic and life threatening diseases, we thank you for your decision to expand Medicaid in Kentucky. As you well know, not only will this expansion benefit 288,000 residents of Kentucky, but it will also cut uncompensated care costs by approximately \$451 million dollars.

Accepting federal funds to allow low income adults access to health care will allow more Kentucky residents to see a doctor regularly, access preventative services and avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency room. Access to these services enhances the likelihood of preventing life threatening diseases as well as treating disease with the most effective therapies possible for these patients.

Health care disparities have long existed between those with low incomes and the rest of the United States population. By taking this first, important step, you give these people a chance to lead healthy, productive lives. Importantly, this policy will provide security to hard-working and low income families.

Thank you again for making this decision critical to the future of patients in Kentucky. Let us know how we can be a resource for you in the future as you tackle the challenges of health care issues moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Blue Ribbon Advocacy Alliance
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
AAPD
NAMI
Fight Colorectal Cancer

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Colon Cancer Alliance
Komen for the Cure
International Myeloma Foundation
Cancer Support Community
LiveSTRONG
Lung Cancer Alliance



AARP Kentucky
10401 Linn Station Road
Suite 121
Louisville, KY 40223

T 866-295-7275
F 502-423-7031

www.aarp.org/ky

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 E. Main Street 6-WA
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a membership and offices in all 50 states, AARP's mission is to help people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We seek to help older Americans live long and healthy lives. For AARP's 459,000 members in Kentucky, we strongly urge you to expand Medicaid to Kentuckians with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line (138 percent with the 5 percent income disregard), as set forth in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Medicaid expansion under the ACA will both *expand access to health care* for people who desperately need it, and *save the state money*. This issue is particularly important to AARP members who are age 50+ but not yet eligible for Medicare. During this historic economic recession, many of these individuals have lost their jobs and their employer-sponsored insurance coverage. Moreover, while people with incomes from 100-400% of the federal poverty rate will be eligible for the federal tax subsidy to partially offset the cost of their insurance beginning in 2014, without exercising the Medicaid expansion option, Kentucky will effectively create a coverage gap in the state for those under 100% of poverty.

AARP is helping older Americans who've lost their jobs, are struggling to find new ones and can't get affordable health care. We believe expanding Medicaid will help thousands of 50 to 64-year-olds who've lost their jobs or are struggling in jobs without health benefits but don't currently qualify for Medicaid.

Expanding Medicaid will provide coverage for hardworking people who've paid in all their lives but are now struggling to make ends meet. In addition, it will give people without insurance access to preventive care that can save lives, and ease dangerous and expensive emergency room overcrowding that hurts all of us.

According to research from AARP's Public Policy Institute, expanding Medicaid would provide health coverage for an estimated 47,637 uninsured Kentucky residents aged 50-64, based on the number of Kentucky residents aged 50-64 who were living at or below 138 percent of poverty in 2010. Older adults are particularly vulnerable to deterioration in function and health status if they do not have health coverage, inevitably increasing their need for and use of health and long term care.

Robert G. Romasco, President
Addison Barry Rand, Chief Executive Officer

In Kentucky, according to a recent Urban Institute report¹, approximately 399,000 individuals would become eligible for coverage in 2014. It is noteworthy that Medicaid enrollment will increase whether or not a state accepts the expansion option. Exchanges and their Navigators are required to conduct outreach and education for all health care coverage programs, including Medicaid, and it is anticipated that some of those currently eligible under existing state Medicaid standards will enroll as a result. Medicaid enrollment may also increase, independent of a state's expansion decision, as states implement the ACA provisions that simplify the application and eligibility determination processes.

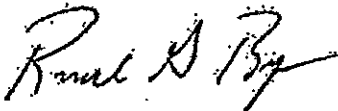
There has been some concern that by increasing the number of individuals who receive Medicaid, the cost to the state will increase dramatically. By choosing to expand Medicaid Kentucky can benefit from the new federal matching rate of 100%, rather than the FY2012 match rate of 70.55%, should it opt to move forward with expansion beginning in 2014.

Expansion means that these individuals, those who are the most vulnerable and in most need of care, would be afforded coverage while the state would be able to fund the coverage through the increased federal match. It makes fiscal and practical sense to expand Medicaid while ensuring that there are no reductions or cuts to such valuable programs to the most vulnerable and in-need population.

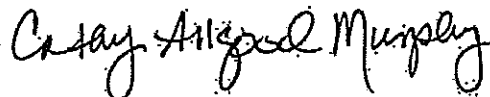
In addition, expanding Medicaid can help ease dangerous emergency room overcrowding that threatens quality of care and hurts hospitals. Expanding Medicaid can save the Commonwealth Charity Care dollars because the uninsured won't have to use expensive emergency room care on the taxpayer's dime. The report of the Urban Institute for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimated that over a 10-year period Medicaid expansion would cut uncompensated care nationally by \$183 billion, allowing state and local spending on uncompensated care to be reduced substantially.

As you consider your options and determine whether to fully expand Medicaid, we urge you to consider what will be in the best interest of all Kentuckians. We also strongly encourage you to continue to involve and engage consumers as you move forward. AARP Kentucky stands ready to work with you. If you have any questions about these comments or would like further clarification, please contact us at (502) 394-3427 or cmurphy@aarp.org.

Sincerely,



Ron Bridges
State Director



Cathy Allgood Murphy
Associate State Director for Advocacy

¹ Kenney et al. Making the Medicaid Expansion an ACA Option. June 29, 2012. The Urban Institute Health Policy Center. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412606-Making-the-Medicaid-Expansion-an-ACA-Option.pdf>

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March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 E. Main Street 6-WA
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

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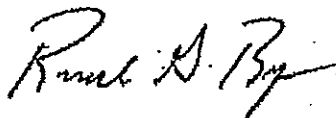
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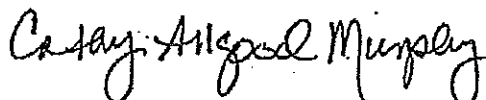
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As you consider your options and determine whether to fully expand Medicaid, we urge you to consider what will be in the best interest of all Kentuckians. We also strongly encourage you to continue to involve and engage consumers as you move forward. AARP Kentucky stands ready to work with you. If you have any questions about these comments or would like further clarification, please contact us at (502) 394-3427 or cmurphy@aarp.org.

Sincerely,



Ron Bridges
State Director



Cathy Allgood Murphy
Associate State Director for Advocacy

¹ Kenney et al. Making the Medicaid Expansion an ACA Option. June 29, 2012. The Urban Institute Health Policy Center. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412606-Making-the-Medicaid-Expansion-an-ACA-Option.pdf>



April 2, 2013

Lawrence Kissner, Commissioner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I am writing to encourage the administration to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky to the fullest extent allowable under the Affordable Care Act. The question of whether to expand Medicaid is a critical public policy decision that will have far-reaching implications and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the issue.

Kentucky has the 9th highest rate of cardiovascular disease in the country. Kentucky's existing Medicaid program provides an important source of health care coverage for individuals affected by heart disease, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease. Based on national estimates, at least 53% of current adult Medicaid recipients have a history of cardiovascular disease or stroke. Through expansion, there is an opportunity to have an even greater impact. Nationwide there are 7.3 million uninsured Americans with some form of cardiovascular disease and nearly half of these individuals stand to gain coverage through expansion.

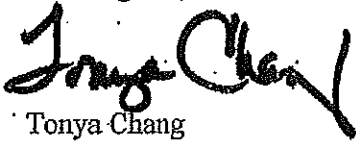
Medicaid expansion provides an opportunity to increase access and improve care for heart disease and stroke patients. One study found that Medicaid recipients with heart disease were twice as likely to take their medication appropriately, compared to the uninsured. Another study concluded that Medicaid recipients were more likely to have their blood pressure controlled, compared to the uninsured. Furthermore, another study showed that when compared to the uninsured, Medicaid recipients were 20% more likely to have been checked for high cholesterol.

Expanding Medicaid is good deal for Kentucky. Much of the state's costs in the out-years will be offset by reducing state spending for hospital care for the uninsured. Additionally, health insurance premiums in the individual market and state health exchanges are predicted to be lower in states that expand Medicaid, compared to states that do not.

Finally, if the administration decides not to expand Medicaid, we are very concerned that the poorest and most vulnerable Kentuckians who would not qualify for a tax subsidy would remain uninsured.

We sincerely hope that Kentucky will undertake Medicaid expansion and we offer our assistance going forward. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at tonya.chang@heart.org or at 859-492-2882.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya Chang", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tonya Chang
Kentucky Director of Government Relations

APPALACHIAN RESEARCH AND DEFENSE FUND OF KENTUCKY, INC.

LANCE DANIELS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
e-mail: lanced@ardfky.org

JOHN M. ROSENBERG
DIRECTOR EMERITUS

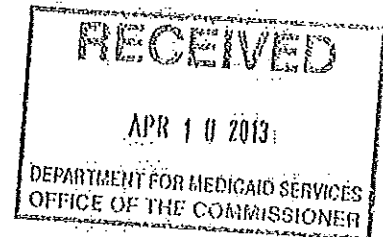
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(606) 886-9876
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SOMERSET, KY

April 05, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

AppalReD Legal Aid is a private non-profit law firm which provides free legal representation in a region of more than 225,000 people living in poverty. We are the largest legal aid organization in Kentucky and serve a 37 county region in the Appalachian mountains of Eastern and South Central Kentucky.

Approximately 51% of our clients receive food stamps and 32% are aided with SSI. AppalReD assists clients whose public benefits have been wrongly terminated by ensuring that they are properly represented in cases relating to public benefits (i.e. SSI, AFDC, Food Stamps, Medicaid and Medicare).

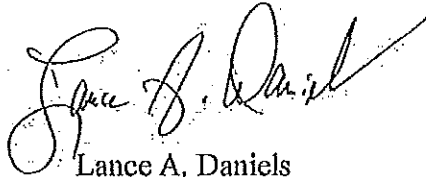
I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

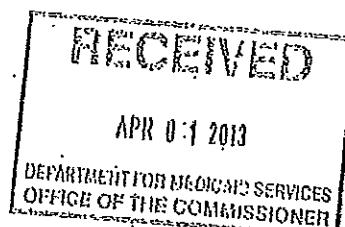
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,



Lance A. Daniels
Executive Director



Administrative Office
P.O. Box 4069 • 2924 Holt Street
Ashland, Kentucky 41105-4069

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. The expansion can only be seen as a Win-Win situation for the overall health care and economy of Kentucky. I am listing below only a few of many reasons in support of the expansion:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
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- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

I hope the decision will be to move forward with the expansion.



Bluegrass Community Health Center

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am the Medical Director of the Bluegrass Community Health Center in Lexington, Ky. And I support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
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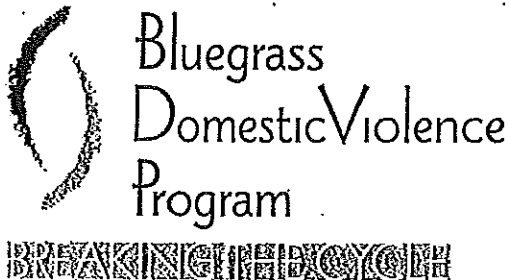
That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

The Bluegrass Community Health Center stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Wrightson", is written over the typed name.

Alan Stevens Wrightson, MD
Medical Director
Bluegrass Community Health Center
1306 Versailles Road Suite 120
Lexington, Ky. 40504
859-259-2635



April 1, 2013

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The Bluegrass Domestic Violence Association (BDVP) strongly supports expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. BDVP is an emergency services shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Lexington. We are part of a network of crisis shelters across the state that served 23,865 survivors last year. The majority of the individuals seeking our services do not have health insurance. Expanding Medicaid will directly impact a survivor whose health is a priority on her journey to self-sufficiency.

Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

We also understand that the federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

Finally, we believe expanding Medicaid will help our economy, adding almost 15,000 jobs.

We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Darlene Thomas'.

Darlene Thomas
Executive Director

PO Box 55190 • Lexington, Kentucky 40555 • Phone: 859.233.3657 • Fax: 859.519.1938

24-Hour Crisis Line: 800-544-2022

www.beyondtheviolence.org

A United Way Agency



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Dave Gerwig
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Kathy Cox
Secretary

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Maureen Capalbo
Deb Deweese
Jennifer Nolan

April 4, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and is a great bargain for the Commonwealth.

At Bridgehaven Mental Health Services in Louisville, Kentucky we provide psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery services for almost 500 adults with severe mental illness each year. Our program incorporates a clubhouse model, is based on the Boston Model of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and offers several evidence based practices to consumers, including: Illness/Wellness Management and Recovery; Treatment for Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Severe Mental Illness; Wellness Recovery Action Planning and Cognitive Enhancement Therapy. Bridgehaven just received our fifth, 3 year accreditation from CARF in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Community Integration. This year we added accreditation in two new programs: Intensive Outpatient Mental Health and Outpatient Mental Health. A three year CARF accreditation is given in recognition of the outstanding quality of our services.

Bridgehaven produces quantifiable outcomes for the persons served and for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Bridgehaven members demonstrate an average 85% decrease in psychiatric hospitalizations and our services cost only \$70/day. The cost savings for the taxpayers of Kentucky over twelve years of tracking this data is over \$18 million. Despite the fact that 96% the people we serve live at or below the poverty level, as many as 40% of those requesting services do not qualify for Medicaid under the current eligibility criteria and cannot access this highly effective program. Expansion of Medicaid eligibility would allow almost

Mary Bernker
Dennis Boyd
Peggy El-Mallakh
Virginia Evans
Wes Gersh
Arch Gleason
Scott Gleckler
Miltz Hall
Paul Halloran
Ramie Martin-Galijatovic
Dan O'Bryan
Linda Shapiro
Mollie Smith

Ramona Johnson, APRN, CS
President/CEO



Bridgehaven is a 501(c)(3)
social service agency.

An affiliate of



950 S. First St.
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 585-9444 Fax: (502) 585-9466
www.bridgehaven.org



Metro United Way

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
April 4, 2013
Page 2

200 additional people with severe mental illness to access Bridgehaven's services each year and experience the same benefit of reduced hospitalizations and community integration.

Medicaid expansion is a great opportunity to improve Kentucky's health status and economy. I am sure you are aware of the many statistics that indicate the positive impact of Medicaid expansion on the health of our citizens. In behavioral health there are additional compelling reasons to support the expansion.

Kentucky ranks near the bottom of all 50 states in our spending on behavioral health services; we spend less than half of the national per capita average. Not only does this result in insufficient diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and substance abuse, it also jeopardizes the physical health of persons with behavioral health issues. On average people with severe mental illness die 25 years sooner than their peers who do not have a mental illness.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

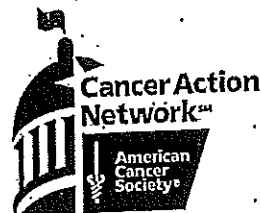


Ramona Johnson APRN, CS
President/CEO
Bridgehaven Mental Health Services

Cc: Dave Gerwig, Board Chair

March 29, 2013

The Honorable Lawrence Kissner
Kentucky Medicaid Commissioner
275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601



Dear Commissioner Kissner,

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I would like to comment on the issue of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky.

I think it is important to highlight the burden of cancer on the Commonwealth. One in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society estimates that 25,100 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed and that approximately 9,970 cancer deaths will occur in Kentucky in 2013.¹

To reduce this burden, ACS CAN believes that policymakers should take an aggressive approach to fighting cancer. It is important that measures be enacted to ensure that people have access to adequate and affordable healthcare. This is one of the most effective ways to prevent and detect cancer early, treat cancer effectively, and bolster the quality of life for cancer patients.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were more than 621,000 Kentuckians who lacked health insurance in 2011, (or 14.4% of the state population).² Two of the greatest concerns facing newly diagnosed cancer patients and their families are prognosis and cost of treatment.

Uninsured cancer patients are nearly twice as likely to die within five years as those with private coverage. They are less likely to get recommended cancer screenings and are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage cancer.³

Research also indicates that approximately 10 percent of cancer patients are uninsured at the time of diagnosis.⁴ Equally troubling, about one-third of cancer survivors report a loss of health insurance at some point in time since their diagnosis.⁵

Simply stated, assuring that every Kentuckian has access to regular doctor's visits and recommended screenings will save lives.

¹ American Cancer Society, "Cancer Facts & Figures, 2012, Updated." Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2012.

² United State Census Bureau, see: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/HIB_tables.html, accessed 11/12/12, Table HIB-4, "Health Insurance coverage Status & Type of Coverage by State All People: 1999 to 2011.

³ Halpern MT, Bian J, Ward EM, Schrag NM, Chen AY. "Insurance status and stage of cancer at diagnosis among women with breast cancer." *Cancer* 2007; 110: 403-11.

⁴ Thorpe KB, Howard D. "Health Insurance and Spending Among Cancer Patients" *Health Affairs* 2003. W3; 189-198.

⁵ American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. "Facing Cancer in the Healthcare System: A National Poll." May 21 - June 10, 2010. <http://www.acscan.org/healthcare/cancerpoll>.

Thousands of hard-working, low-income Kentuckians continue to lack access to healthcare coverage. Expanding Medicaid to more families at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$30,657 for a family of four) will ensure access to regular doctor's visits and preventive services such as pap smears, mammograms and smoking cessation aids. Expansion will additionally reduce unnecessary visits to emergency rooms.

Studies show that individuals enrolled in Medicaid, receive life-saving preventative screenings at higher rates than the uninsured and close to the same rate of those enrolled in private insurance. More than half (56%) of the women aged 40 to 64 enrolled in Medicaid received a mammogram in the past two years, compared to 38% of uninsured women, and 56% of insured women aged 40 to 64.⁶ Also, 74% of women aged 18 to 64 enrolled in Medicaid received a Pap smear in the past 3 years, compared to 68% of uninsured women, and 87% of insured women aged 18 to 64.⁷

ACS CAN realizes that the Commonwealth of Kentucky faces significant budget challenges and we encourage you to consider the financial benefit of the Medicaid expansion. Under the ACA, the federal government will pay for 100% of the Medicaid expansion and no less than 90% of the cost to provide health care coverage to working, low-income Kentuckians, beyond 2020⁸

ACS CAN urges you to support the General Assembly accepting money on the table and expand access lifesaving health coverage to more than 740,000 Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

James Sharp
Government Relations Director, Kentucky
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

⁶ Ward et al. "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes," A Cancer Journal for Clinicians Volume 58 Number 1 January/February 2008. American Cancer Society Surveillance Research Update 2011.

⁷ Ward et al. "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes," A Cancer Journal for Clinicians Volume 58 Number 1 January/February 2008. American Cancer Society Surveillance Research Update 2011.

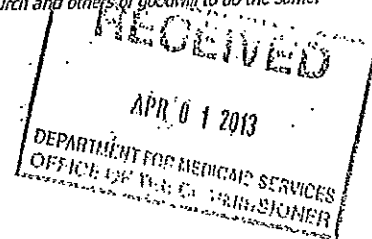
⁸ The Kaiser Family Foundation, "State Medicaid Fact Sheets," Available at: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org>.



Catholic Identity and External Relations

- * ADVOCACY & EDUCATION * INSIGHTS Program
- * CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT * CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
- * COMMUNITY ORGANIZING * HOUSING DEVELOPMENT * PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc., as a member of Catholic Charities USA and an apostolate in the Archdiocese of Louisville, provides service for people in need, calls for justice in social structure, and calls the entire Church and others of goodwill to do the same.



March 28, 2013

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky.

Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for our Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- First and foremost – every single person is of great value and is part of Kentucky's greatest resource.
- Our children especially are fundamentally important – they are our future and Kentucky cannot afford to “throw away” any single one of them.
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many persons uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- In 2011 570 of our children with cancer were on Medicaid; has that improved or worsened? 2310 with diabetes were on Medicaid; 65,000 with lung maladies.
- Our federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy. And it will help keep 146,000 of our uninsured people with jobs healthy and on the job – in restaurants, motor vehicle production, schools, nursing care facilities and hospitals.
- Medicaid expansion would cover 20,600 uninsured veterans in Kentucky.

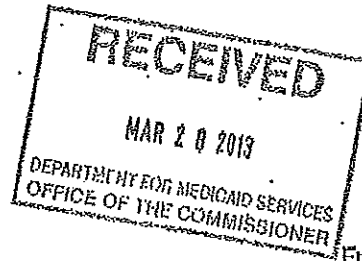
That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Schmuck, RSM

Sister Mary Schmuck, RSM
Catholic Charities Nazareth Office; Healthcare Issues Monitor





1042 Burlington Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601-8487
Tel (502)875-4345
Fax (502)875-2841
www.ccky.org

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40601-2321

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing on behalf of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky which represents the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses in public policy matters. The Conference seeks to promote the common good for all Kentuckians. Catholic Social Teaching defines that broad term as the total of all conditions necessary—economic, political, material, and cultural—which allows all people to realize their human dignity and reach their full human potential.

Our church believes and teaches that health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic *human right*, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity. We believe our people's health care should not depend on where they work, how much their parents earn, or where they live. We measure governmental policies by asking this primary question: how will this affect poor persons? How will it help or harm vulnerable families, children, and those with disabilities?

We know about these vulnerable persons because we serve them through the many St. Vincent de Paul Societies attached to our parishes who work directly with poor persons, our four Catholic Charities agencies and numerous other outreach programs available in every part of the Commonwealth. The Catholic hospital network throughout the state provides care and comfort to all those who present themselves for treatment, many of them very poor and without insurance.

Most Reverend
Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville

Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

Most Reverend
Ronald W. Galner, D.D.
Bishop of Lexington

Most Reverend
William F. Medley, D.D.
Bishop of Owensboro

Reverend
Patrick Delahanty
Executive Director

Page Two
March 28, 2013

It is in that context that the Conference wishes to see the state of Kentucky participate in the expansion of Medicaid to those persons whose incomes are below 138% of the federal poverty level. Kentucky has a unique opportunity to provide a significant number of low-income earners with health insurance through an expansion that is almost entirely paid for by the federal government.

As you certainly know, the disproportionate share payments are diminishing and will be completely phased out over time. If the Medicaid expansion opportunity is not taken advantage of and hospitals are faced with the loss of DSH payments, we fear that costs to all of us will increase or, worse, services to low-income persons dependent on emergency rooms for healthcare, could be reduced or cut entirely. This violates our understanding of what it means to be a society that promotes the common good.

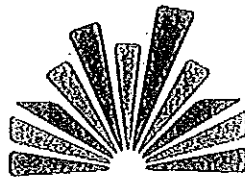
We know this expansion means work and is complicated. It is complicated further because of the shift to managed care. At the time this transition was being considered, we feared that it would not go well and urged the Governor not to shift the responsibility of managing Medicaid to the private sector. That is now water under the bridge. However, some oppose the expansion of Medicaid because of the difficulties already facing consumers, providers, and the state.

The Medicaid expansion is too important for the provision of insurance to so many people in need to let these transition difficulties be an excuse for not taking advantage of this opportunity. Indeed, it is added reason to correct the problems in the current system and be in a position to improve the access to quality healthcare to an even greater number of Kentuckians.

On behalf of the Conference, I thank you for taking on this difficult task and serving in your important capacity as Commissioner. In addition, thank you also for giving our thoughts your consideration.

Sincerely,


Reverend Patrick Delahanty
Executive Director



CENTER *for*
ACCESSIBLE LIVING
Disability Rights and Resources



March 29, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

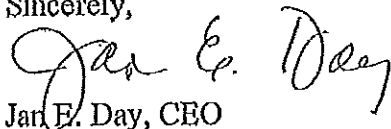
Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. Our organization serves a large number of Kentuckians with disabilities. We feel that a Medicaid expansion would provide greatly needed opportunities for these individuals to be able to stay in a community setting of their choice and not be forced into more costly and restrictive institutional and nursing home facilities. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,


Jan E. Day, CEO



THE
CENTER
FOR
WOMEN
AND
FAMILIES

P.O. Box 2048 Louisville, KY 40201-2048 / www.thecenteronline.org
BUSINESS LINE 502.581.7200 / FAX 502.581.7204 / 24 HOUR TOLL-FREE CRISIS LINE 1.877.803.7577

April 1, 2013

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The Center for Women and Families writes in support of expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. The Center for Women and Families is an emergency services shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Louisville. We have five regional locations serving Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble counties in Kentucky, and Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana. Expanding Medicaid will directly impact the women and children who seek services at our shelter. We are part of a network of crisis shelters across the state that recognizes the effect such an expansion could have on the 23,865 survivors we served last year.

Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

We also understand that the federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

Finally, we believe expanding Medicaid will help our economy, adding almost 15,000 jobs.

We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,
Marta Miranda

President/CEO
The Center for Women and Families

The Center for Women and Families helps victims of intimate partner abuse or sexual violence to become survivors through supportive services, community education and cooperative partnerships that foster hope, promote self-sufficiency and rebuild lives.





333 Madison Ave. Covington, KY 41011
(859) 431-2075 • FAX (859) 431-5217
www.childreninc.org

March 27, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:


I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy.

Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.
- Access to health care leads to healthier families, more productive workers and higher achievement for children in school.

These are just some of the many reasons why Medicaid expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Hammons
Children, Inc.

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2013

DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Montessori and Early Learning Academy ***
Treasure House Child Development Center ****
Kenton Child Development Center ****
Gardens at Greenup Child Development Center ***
Imagine Tomorrow Child Development Center ****
Early Learning Centers
Newport Preschool Center ****
River Ridge Elementary ****
Wallon-Verona Elementary ****
Erpenbeck Elementary
North Pointe Elementary
Newport Teen Center ***
Visions Ohio Step Up to Quality 2 Stars
School Age Services
Family Child Care
Young Families Program
Mayerson Service Learning Initiative
Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential
Greater Cincinnati Center for Montessori Education
Devereux Regional Early Childhood Center
GrowingSound- www.growing-sound.com



*City of Lakeview Heights
385 Circle Drive
Morehead, KY 40351
606.780.7613*

March 27, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

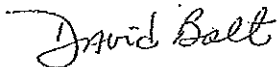
Re: Support of Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As a local public official, I realize the importance of Kentucky having a healthy and well-educated population. I commend you and the Governor on the work you and others have accomplished over the past two years in the effort to improve our Commonwealth.

Expansion of the Medicaid program, under the ACA, is a critical step in order to reach our goals. This action, along with the multitude of other efforts Governor Beshear has under way, will be one of the critical cornerstones for moving Kentucky in a positive direction.

Sincerely,



David Bolt
Mayor
Lakeview Heights, KY

David Bolt, Mayor

*Robert Camuel, Commissioner
Mary Magrane, Commissioner*

*Samuel Mason, Commissioner
Eddie Sorrell, Commissioner*



CLARK COUNTY

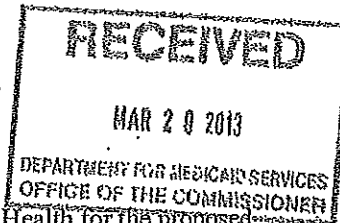
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AND
HOME HEALTH AGENCY

400 PROFESSIONAL AVE
WINCHESTER, KY 40391

PHONE 859-744-4482
FAX 859-744-0338
www.clarkhealthdept.org

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to you to express the support of the Clark County Board of Health for the proposed expansion of Medicaid coverage for individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. This expansion is part of the Affordable Care Act and we feel it is the right thing to do for our community and our state.

It is estimated that over 400,000 uninsured people could be potentially covered by this expansion. This expansion would provide coverage for many of the patients like those we see in our health department on a daily basis. Affording more Kentuckians access to healthcare by having a payer for services is crucial to improving the health status of our communities.

Our Board of Health is tasked with the financial oversight of our health department. Providing a payer source for more members of our community would mean that the health department could be reimbursed for providing services to these individuals or they could choose to go to another provider. Either way it would free up resources that are being used now which could then be redirected to providing our core population health services. Most importantly expanding Medicaid coverage would improve the lives of many Kentuckians by providing them access to the healthcare that everyone deserves.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A. Scott Lockard
Secretary
Clark County Board of Health



PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT, PROMOTE, PROTECT



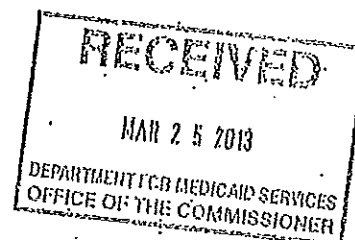
Coalition for the Homeless
louhomeless.org

1300 S 4th St, Suite 250
Louisville, KY 40208

502.636.9550
502.636.9950 fax

**COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS**

March 20, 2013



Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
275 E. Main St.
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Commissioner Kissner,

The Coalition for the Homeless and our 32 member agencies would like to thank you for your strong leadership in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky. As advocates for the poor and homeless, The Coalition for the Homeless and our 32 member agencies would like to provide our strong support for expansion of Medicaid in Kentucky to 128% of poverty as part of our implementation plan. This expansion will literally save the lives of many of our neighbors who presently live on the streets with no health coverage. It also lowers the tax burden on employers, makes it possible for medical providers to meet the requirements of the ACA and allows Kentucky to accept federal dollars already allocated to help our citizens.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to provide data on the health needs of our state's homeless or bring people in need of insurance to speak about the topic to those still on the fence. Toward that end, we have enclosed our report on the importance of Medicaid expansion for the homeless in Kentucky and are sending copies to all Jefferson County legislators. Thank you again for your leadership. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at nharris@louhomeless.org or 502-636-9550 x 11.

Sincerely,

Natalie Harris
The Coalition for the Homeless

Members:

Bellewood

Choices

Family Scholar House

The Healing Place for Women

House of Ruth

Jefferson Street at Liberty

New Directions Housing Corp.

Phoenix Health Center

Seven Counties Services

Volunteers of America of Kentucky

YMCA - Chestnut

Boys and Girl's Haven

Dare to Care

GuardiaCare

Home of the Innocents

Interlink Counseling

Legal Aid Society

New Life Recovery

Rhonda's Another Chance

St. Vincent de Paul

Wayside Christian Mission

YMCA Safe Place

Center for Women and Families

Family and Children's Place

The Healing Place for Men

House of Hope

Jefferson Street Baptist

Mattie's House

Passages to Recovery

Salvation Army

St. John Center

Wellspring

The Coalition for the Homeless Affordable Care Act Policy Statement

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) signed into law on March 23, 2010 has already been a huge gain for many Americans providing such new benefits as prevention services, longer coverage for children under their parent's plans, the removal of lifetime benefit caps, the provision of coverage for children with pre-existing conditions and the decrease in drug costs for seniors. However, most of these benefits have had little effect on homeless citizens in Kentucky as most of this population does not have health insurance.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has the opportunity to greatly change this dynamic in 2014. This is the point at which states can expand Medicaid coverage to nearly all individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (the Urban Institute estimates this to be 417,387 newly insured Kentuckians). This coverage will be paid fully by the federal government in 2014 and while the state's responsibility for the bill increases through 2020, it never exceeds 10%. Half of the newly eligible individuals and families have incomes at 50% of poverty or less. These are our neighbors who are on the edge and have or could become homeless due to lack of income. Additionally, one-fourth of the newly eligible individuals and families have a serious mental illness.

The Coalition for the Homeless feels that it is important for the Commonwealth of Kentucky to expand Medicaid fully to all eligible groups in 2014. This will be a huge benefit to homeless Kentuckians and those who serve them. Presently, in Louisville, where the majority of homeless medical needs are served through Family Health Center's Phoenix Health Center Health Care for the Homeless Program and University of Louisville Hospital, approximately 85% of the homeless served have no medical insurance. Even when including the VA hospital where most clients have insurance, 65% of the homeless served overall had no health insurance. Nationally, 62% of the homeless served through Healthcare for the Homeless are uninsured, four times the uninsured rate of the general population. On his recent visit to Louisville, Dr. Jim O'Connell, President of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program reported that over 95% of their homeless clients have health insurance provided through their expanded Medicaid Program. If Kentucky chooses to fully expand Medicaid to the new limits, this would increase the number of homeless persons with insurance in Louisville by as much as 7,000. And, increasing insurance coverage saves lives. As reported by Sommers, Baiker and Epstein, for each 176 new persons covered, a life is saved.

This is especially important because many individuals experiencing homelessness have complex and significant physical and behavioral health disorders including serious mental illnesses and addictions. On September 19, 20 and 21, 2011, over 100 volunteers in Louisville conducted a street survey with 244 people sleeping on the streets of Louisville. Of that group, 43% (106) had at least one major health factor making them at risk of dying on the streets while 204 had a mental illness, chemical dependency or both. In total, this group had visited the local emergency room 475 times in the last three months with 231 hospital stays in the last year. Currently, Seven Counties Services provides behavioral health services to a significant number of these individuals. However, reductions in available resources have also reduced the level of uncompensated care available for behavioral health disorders.

Medicaid expansion should also include all young adults exiting foster care until the age of 25. The Coalition for the Homeless has been leading a group working to address the needs of a rising group of young adults from 16-24 with no resources or opportunity in our community. Over the past year, 555 of these young adults in Louisville were forced to sleep in adult homeless shelters due to no other options and when conducting a survey of their needs, we discovered that many of them are concerned about their lack of health care access.

Medicaid expansion in 2014 is also the most cost effective solution for our providers and the Commonwealth. The majority of medical care for the homeless in Louisville is uncompensated and provided at the Federally Qualified Health Center, Phoenix Health Center or University of Louisville's emergency room. This has been complicated by new MCO changes at the state level as well as the fact that the ACA significantly reduces funding to these providers for uninsured care and Medicaid expansion is the only way to expand health insurance to those below 138% of the federal poverty level. Without this expansion there will be large gaps in services or funding shortfalls to hospitals (including state psychiatric hospitals funded by the Commonwealth) leaving these institutions and the state to pay for uncompensated indigent care. It is true that estimates including those provided by Kaiser show an average of 2.8% more in Medicaid spending to the Commonwealth with the expansion versus what is being spent now, but the savings to uncompensated indigent care are expected to be even higher (estimates range from \$687 million to \$1.3 billion from 2014 - 2019), the expanded Medicaid program provides new services not available through Medicaid now, and Medicaid expansion will also help the economy by providing increased employment through local health providers. Medicaid expansion will also save other costs to the community. A 2006 "Cost of Homelessness Study" conducted by the University of Louisville showed that the cost of uncompensated medical care for the homeless of Louisville alone exceeded \$17,900,000 per year. Untreated medical and mental health problems are also significant contributing factors to unemployment and homelessness. And, an investment in new Medicaid dollars is expected to provide an annual economic boost to our economy of approximately \$11 billion per year.

Without Medicaid or other insurance, preventive and specialty care are particularly hard to acquire and many homeless persons have chronic vision, dental and physical ailments that go unaddressed. Those with insurance are also able to establish a relationship with a primary care provider, have much shorter wait times for services and receive continuous care. Therefore, The Coalition for the Homeless, strongly encourages the Commonwealth of Kentucky to choose a comprehensive benchmark plan that includes key mental health, addiction, vision and dental services not provided to the homeless and poor in our community now. Key benefits that should be considered include Assertive Community Treatment, Supportive Housing, Peer Support Services, Integrated Treatment, Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment, Crisis Residential Services, outreach to the homeless, in-home "wrap-around" services for children, and preventive services for obesity, mental illness, and tobacco use. Most importantly, any package selected should include home and community based services specifically designed to avoid institutionalization which is also usually at the Commonwealth's expense. These include supported employment, supportive housing, peer support, wrap-around services for children, and respite care. Finally, the plan and benefits selected should be the same for both the exchange and those served through Medicaid expansion in order to simplify and save costs in administration.

TOP REASONS TO EXPAND MEDICAID IN KENTUCKY

By The Coalition for the Homeless

- 1) Medicaid expansion in Kentucky would provide health coverage to an additional 261,000 Kentuckians (40% of those without coverage now).
- 2) There is no other provision for providing health coverage to those at 100% or below of poverty in the Commonwealth without Medicaid expansion.
- 3) Increasing insurance coverage saves lives. As reported by Sommers, Baker and Epstein, for each 176 new persons covered, a life is saved.
- 4) Secretary Sebelius of the U.S. Cabinet for Health and Human Services has reported that the Commonwealth of Kentucky has more to gain than any other state by expanding Medicaid because we have so many uninsured citizens.
- 5) Medicaid expansion coverage is a great deal and brings in federal dollars to Kentucky as it will be paid fully by the federal government in 2014 and while the state's responsibility for the bill increases through 2020, it never exceeds 10%.
- 6) Medicaid expansion means more Kentuckians will get preventive health care and on-going coordinated care.
- 7) Medicaid expansion means more Kentuckians will get mental health and drug treatment services. Uncompensated care for these two items alone is costing the Commonwealth millions of dollars each year.
- 8) Half of the newly eligible individuals and families have incomes at 50% of poverty or less and have no way to get adequate health coverage without insurance. Their untreated medical and mental health problems are significant contributing factors to unemployment and homelessness.
- 9) Without Medicaid expansion there will be large gaps in services or funding shortfalls to hospitals (including state psychiatric hospitals funded by the Commonwealth) leaving these institutions and the state to pay for uncompensated indigent care.
- 10) An investment in new Medicaid dollars is expected to provide an annual economic boost to our economy of approximately \$11 billion per year.



COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

100 Fair Oaks Ln 4E-F
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621
Phone (502) 564-7841
Toll Free (877) 367-5332
Fax (502) 564-9826
www.ccdd.ky.gov

Patricia F. Seybold
Executive Director

Stephanie Sharp
Chairperson

April 8, 2013

Governor Steven L. Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

The mission of the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities is "to create systemic change in KY that empowers individuals to achieve full citizenship and inclusion in the community through capacity building and advocacy. We believe that the Commonwealth should fully engage, support, and provide equal opportunity for each individual to pursue the American dream as a fully integrated, valued and contributing citizen."

In keeping with this mission, we urge you, Governor Beshear, and our other political leaders to implement Medicaid expansion in Kentucky under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

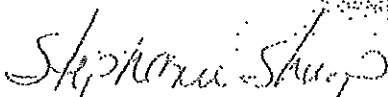
Individuals without health insurance are less likely than individuals with insurance to have regular check-ups or to seek preventative care. Because of this, they experience unnecessary illness and their illnesses are more advanced when they finally see a doctor or end up at a hospital. They face the possibility of devastating hospital bills. Hospitals end up providing uncompensated care, the cost of which is passed on to the state and private insurers. Implementing Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act will significantly reduce these problems in Kentucky.

Kentucky should implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion because:

- It will offer health insurance coverage to a substantial number of Kentuckians who currently lack health insurance.

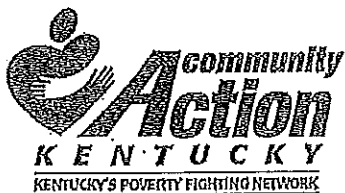
- Gains in Medicaid coverage would substantially reduce the number of uninsured. We can expect 268,000 Kentuckians to gain health care coverage and reduce the number of uninsured in the state by 55%.
- It will be of particular benefit to uninsured individuals with disabilities. Kentucky has 76,619 citizens with disabilities whose income falls below 138% of the Federal poverty level and who are not presently covered by insurance. These individuals will be eligible to receive the coverage they need and deserve.
- The federal government will fund the vast majority of increased Medicaid costs.
- The additional state cost of implementing the Medicaid expansion is small relative to total state Medicaid spending.
- Kentucky will spend less on uncompensated care and providers will receive more revenue than they would without Medicaid expansion.
- Expanding Medicaid under the ACA will substantially increase the flow of federal funds into Kentucky, stimulating economic growth in the state.
- The cost to the state for all of these benefits is quite low.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Sharp, Chairperson
Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities

cc: Greg Stumbo, Speaker of the House
Robert Stivers, Senate President



March 26, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As an association of Community Action Agencies in Kentucky that work to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency among our most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged citizens, and as Medicaid expansion is expected to add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy, I am writing to ask you support to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky.

Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act.

As most part-time and hourly jobs do not provide employer-sponsored insurance and premiums may be unaffordable for low-income families even if employer-sponsored insurance is offered, Medicaid expansion coverage will enable parents to receive regular health care services and stay healthier overall. With more parents receiving timely health care services, high health care costs which result from delayed care will go down. A parent's health affects the health and well-being of other family members.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Jones, J.D.
Executive Director, Community Action Kentucky
101 Burch Court, Frankfort, KY 40601
Office: 502-875-5863; Cell: 502-330-1271
www.communityactionky.org



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FAX: (859) 622-1972

April 3, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am a professor of nursing but foremost I am a nurse and I am writing in that capacity to urge you to expand Medicaid to cover the over 600, 000 Kentuckians who are currently uninsured. There are ethical reasons why I believe in societal responsibility to ensure equal access to basic health care. It is almost impossible for an individual to function as a productive participant in society when suffering from an illness that goes untreated or prevented.

But there are also compelling economic reasons to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid. All of us who pay taxes ultimately foot the bill for untreated, preventable health conditions. For example, every diabetic who is unable to afford to see a health care provider and buy needed insulin which results in lost limbs, kidneys or eyes and winds up on disability costs tax payers many times over what it would cost to pay for primary care. And with the expansion paid for by federal funding for the first three years, Kentucky tax payers are spared the costs.

The federal funds have the potential to do a lot of good in our state. Health care providers will receive reimbursement for the hard work we do, we will have a healthier workforce to attract potential industries to locate in our region, and we can do the right and good thing to help Kentuckians be productive members of society. I hope you will agree to accept the expansion for our state.

Sincerely,

Karma Bryan Cassidy PhD, RN
Associate Professor
Eastern Kentucky University



April 01, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Fairview Community Health Center supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

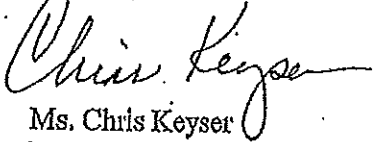
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local

healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Fairview Community Health Center stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Keyser", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms. Chris Keyser
Executive Director



Family Health Centers

Care for your Health & Wellness

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Governors of Family Health Centers, Inc. to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentuckians. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion. This includes more than 17,000 patients currently served by the Family Health Centers in Jefferson County.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

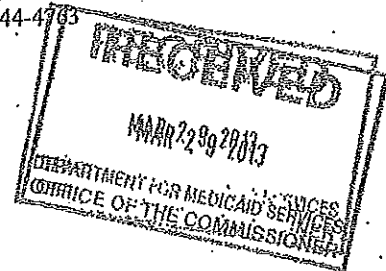
We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Muriel Harris, PhD
Chairperson, FHC Board of Governors



FOUNTAIN AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
300 FOUNTAIN AVENUE
PADUCAH KY 42001
Gregory Waldrop, Pastor
Doctor of Ministry
PHONE: (270) 443-1724 FAX: 444-4763



March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

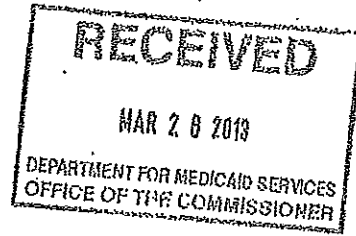
That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Gregory Waldrop, Pastor



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Franklin County Health Department

100 Glenn's Creek Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, 502-564-4269

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Department of Medicaid Services

275 East Main Street, 6W-A

Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am director of the Franklin County Health Department and writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Frankfort-Franklin County and all of Kentucky and our nation. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy, which we know go hand-in-hand:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

100 Glenn's Creek Road • Frankfort, KY 40601 • (502) 564-4269 • Fax: (502) 564-9586

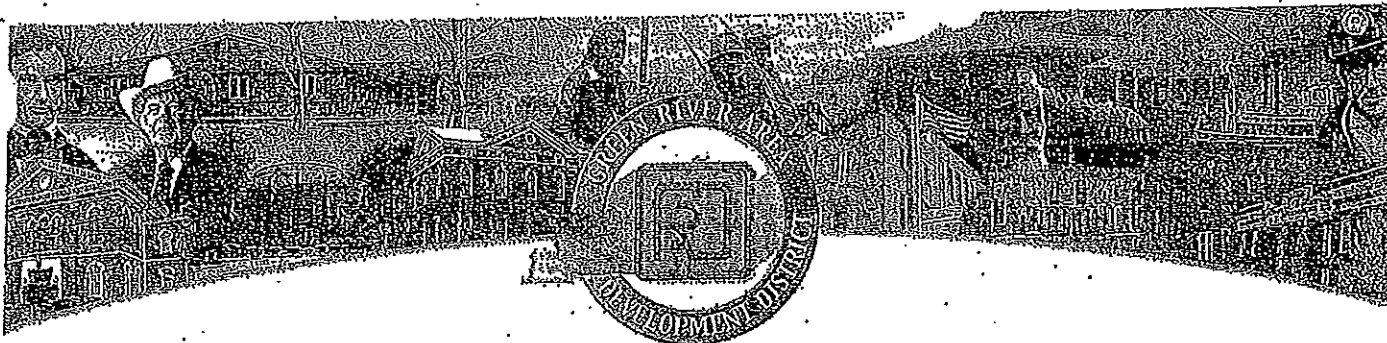
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

The above are only a sampling of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Alexander".

Paula Alexander, RN, MSN, Director



Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138 percent of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. This is not only a great bargain for the Commonwealth but is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 13,000 of them live in the Green River Region that could be covered by the expansion;
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion;
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6 percent;
- The federal government will cover 100 percent of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost; and
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

Jody Jenkins, Chairman • Bill Parrish, Vice Chairman • Jack McCaslin, Secretary • Steve Austin, Treasurer • Jiten Shah, Executive Director

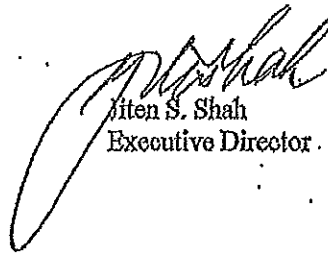
SISTER REGION:

Green River Area Development District • 300 GRADD Way • Owensboro, Kentucky 42301-0200
Phone: 502.668.6056 • Fax: 502.668.6056 • Email: info@gradd.com • Website: www.gradd.com



That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky.
We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Kindest regards,



Aiten S. Shah
Executive Director

C: Senator Carroll Gibson
Senator Dorsey Ridley
Senator Jerry Rhoads
Senator Joe Bowen
Rep. David Watkins
Rep. Dwight Butler
Rep. Jim Glenn
Rep. Jim Gooch
Rep. John Arnold, Jr.
Rep. Tommy Thompson



The Hager Foundation

325 Wildwood Drive
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303
270-685-5707
FAX: 270-685-5707
e-mail: ksanders@lahof.org

Lawrence W. Hager, Jr.
Founder and President

April 5, 2013



Commissioner Lawrence Klissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Expanding Medicaid makes economic sense, and it's the right thing to do

Dear Commissioner Klissner:

It is my hope that Kentucky will choose to expand state Medicaid eligibility to include coverage of individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level. This was the intent of the federal Affordable Care Act.

This is the right thing to do. It will improve the health of Kentuckians. And it makes economic sense.

Let's cover 400,000 of our 600,000 uninsured Kentuckians.

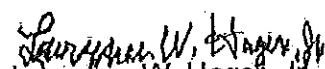
Let's reduce cost by enabling more people to receive preventive care.

Let's help Kentucky become one of the healthiest states in the U.S. (rather than one of the sickest).

Let's create 15,000 jobs by expanding Medicaid.

The Hager Educational Foundation's mission is centered on helping the Davless County community improve opportunities for its economically disadvantaged children. Expanding Medicaid coverage for children who are now uninsured will increase the likelihood they will be healthy, succeed in school and become productive adults.

Sincerely,


Lawrence W. Hager, Jr.

Board of Directors

Rodney Berry

Frankie Scott Hager

Lawrence W. Hager, III

Allen Holbrook

Deborah Nunley

Executive Director

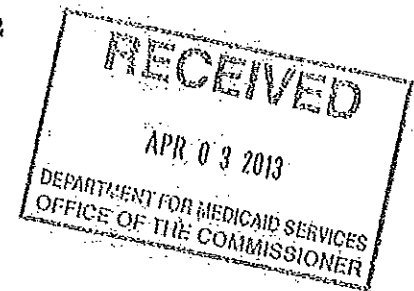
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271 E. MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 719
HAZARD, KENTUCKY 41702
PHONE (606) 439-1316 FAX (606) 435-0752



March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Organization supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

My organization stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



Annie T. Williams
Practice Administrator
Hazard Clinic



April 3, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

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That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Judy Freundlich Tiell

Judy Freundlich Tiell, LCSW
Executive Director

For Every Season Of Your Life
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March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

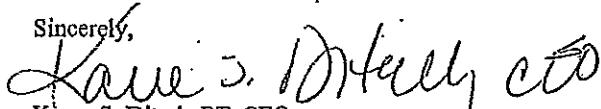
Juniper Health, Inc., a health center that serves Breathitt, Lee and Wolfe counties in eastern Kentucky, strongly supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As one of the only safety-net providers in our counties, we serve our low-income residents, including the Medicaid population, as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. In fact, according to the most recent Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings, the three counties that we serve rest at numbers 116, 117 and 118 out of the 120 counties in our Commonwealth, i.e. the third, fourth and fifth least healthy counties in our state. We know first-hand that low income, uninsured folks often will not access care - because they fear large medical bills - until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. These patients never establish primary medical homes. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these fears and barriers to care will be greatly reduced and their expensive, episodic care will dramatically decrease. Instead they will seek care from facilities such as ours. We will shortly become a certified Patient Centered Medical Home and we now provide excellent care with amazing health outcomes - but we can only make progress with the patients who consistently get their care with us. The folks that are the greatest contributors to needlessly driving up health costs and who exhibit the worst health outcomes are those folks who are poor - those folks who live at 101% - 150% of poverty and don't seek regular, preventive health care due to cost. Medicaid expansion will dramatically increase the compliance rate of people who will seek regular preventive care.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons I hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion. Many of these folks live in our area of the state - the Appalachian region.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion. Juniper Health, Inc. stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

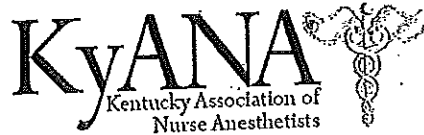
Sincerely,


Karen S. Ditsch, PT, CEO

Lee Co Family Medical Center
125 Main St.
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-2401

Administration Offices
141 Main St. Beattyville
Beattyville, KY 41311
606-464-0151

Breathitt Co Family Health Center
265 KY HWY. 15 South
Jackson, KY 41339
606-666-9950



April 3, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As President of the Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KyANA), I am writing to urge Governor Beshear to take action to expand Medicaid eligibility to include more than 300,000 uninsured Kentuckians in health care coverage.

Our association represents more than 800 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who are providing anesthesia care across the Commonwealth, particularly in rural hospitals where access to quality anesthesia care had been limited. The Governor has already acted to increase access to CRNA services in hospitals in all areas of the Commonwealth, recognizing the value and cost-effectiveness of the services which we provide.

If we are to improve the health of Kentuckians, we must have greater access to health care services of all kinds. The Governor's action to take advantage of the opportunity offered in the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid in Kentucky would bring health care coverage to nearly one-half of those Kentuckians who are currently uninsured.

Our members – CRNAs serving patients across the Commonwealth – are concerned about the health of Kentuckians and want to see it improved. Taking action to secure health care coverage and access to all health care services – including anesthesia care, when necessary – for a large segment of those currently without access is a huge step forward. We hope that the Governor will take it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry Sweatt", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Sweatt, CRNA
KyANA President



WWW.KYPOLICY.ORG

KCEP | 433 CHESTNUT STREET | BEREA, KENTUCKY 40403 | 859-986-2373

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

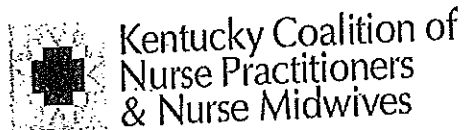
I am writing in support of expanding Medicaid in Kentucky through the Affordable Care Act. As you know, the expansion of Medicaid eligibility would mean that adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line would qualify for coverage in 2014. This is an opportunity to improve the health of Kentuckians, benefit the state's economy and take advantage of a great deal. If Kentucky moves forward with the Medicaid expansion:

- More than half of uninsured Kentuckians could gain health coverage—including more than 146,000 workers across the state's economy and approximately 11,000 uninsured veterans and also their spouses.
- The state would pay nothing for the first three years and no more than 10 percent after that. And once the state's portion kicked in, additional spending wouldn't end up being much more than what Kentucky would have spent on Medicaid in the absence of the Affordable Care Act.
- Kentucky's economy would receive an influx of hundreds of millions of federal dollars. These funds would go to health care providers, support a significant number of new jobs and increase economy activity in the state.

Please also see attached two briefs we have produced on the benefits of the Medicaid expansion to our state. We urge you to support the expansion of Medicaid and a healthier and more productive Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Jason Bailey
Director
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy



Kentucky Coalition of
Nurse Practitioners
& Nurse Midwives

April 3, 2012.

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

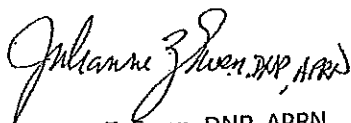
The Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives represents over 2500 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and students, providing care to hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians, many of whom are Medicaid members. We urge Governor Beshear to take advantage of the opportunity outlined in the federal health reform law to expand Medicaid eligibility to 138% of FPL.


Nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives provide care across the Commonwealth, including all 120 counties and the 87 federally-designated health provider shortage areas. We have experienced first-hand the need for expanded coverage and access to health care, particularly primary care and preventive services.

Taking advantage of the ACA Medicaid Expansion in Kentucky would result in health care coverage being extended to more than 300,000 Kentuckians, nearly one-half of those who are currently uninsured. Their lack of access to care drives up the cost of emergency room services both economically and in health outcomes. We need to do better in Kentucky!

The coalition and its members are ready and willing to serve this new population of Kentuckians who would become Medicaid members, offering them high-quality health care services, patient education and prevention. We hope that the Governor will take action to realize this great opportunity.

Sincerely,


Julianne Z. Ewen, DNP, APRN
President


Leila Faucette
Executive Director



KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

P.O. Box 23171, Lexington, Kentucky 40523-3171
Telephone (859) 269-7715 Fax (859) 275-2118
Email kcc@kycouncilofchurches.org Web: www.kycouncilofchurches.org

March 29, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40601-2321

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The 12 Christian traditions in the Kentucky Council of Churches have a long-standing prayerful commitment to ensuring that each and every Kentuckian gain access to affordable, quality health care. For this reason, we write now in support of the Commonwealth claiming the federal funds set aside for this state so that we may expand Medicaid eligibility to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act.

This historic opportunity would at once address the poor health of Kentuckians and additionally bolster the economy of the Commonwealth. Expansion of access to affordable, quality health care for all is a goal of the Christian community. Healthcare is essential to protecting productive and healthy lives with dignity for all. Jesus came to give life abundantly (John 10:10) and his ministry showed that healing is part of that gift. This Medicaid moment is a rare opportunity to "move the needle" for the welfare of Kentuckians, because a large number of us are un- or under-insured and we now have the chance to gain new access to health care.

This is also a moment, however, when we call for improvements in the administration of Medicaid as Kentucky healthcare has become out-sourced to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) whose performance has not lived up to expectations. The Commonwealth should insist that for-profit MCOs be good and effective partners if they are to benefit from the large market increase of expanded Medicaid eligibility.

If the Commonwealth uses this opportunity well, we see these among the positive outcomes:

- In Kentucky as many as 329,000 uninsured people would become eligible. An estimated 621,000 Kentuckians, 14.4% of our total state population, had no health insurance coverage in 2011. With the accepting of federal funds, already set aside for this project, around 57% of un/under-insured Kentuckians will become covered.

Please remember the Council in your prayers and in your planned giving, annual giving, and church budgeting!

African Methodist Episcopal " African Methodist Episcopal Zion "Christian Church in KY "Christian Methodist Episcopal
Cumberland Presbyterian " Episcopal " Evangelical Lutheran Church in America " Kentucky Baptist Fellowship " Presbyterian Church USA
Roman Catholic " United Church of Christ " United Methodist " Union Church, Berea

Observer-Participants: Friends Meeting Berea/Lexington " Salvation Army (SWONEKY & KY/TN Divisions)

Ecumenical Partners: Church Women United " Church World Service " Kentuckiana Interfaith Community " Oikocredit "

Paducah Cooperative Ministry

- Kentuckians who are likely to use emergency services will receive coverage and can better avoid costly crisis care. Expansion benefits the individual patient's health, the family unit's financial status, and the taxpayer in that the public will not be forced to pick up the tab for unpaid bills. The cost of the uninsured to the Kentucky economy tops \$1.1 billion per year today.
- If Kentucky chooses to accept this program we will all be affected. As advocates for the most vulnerable, we particularly note that significant numbers of veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons with HIV stand to gain from the change, as well as the many children affected.
- Kentucky currently ranks very low in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Other states that expanded their Medicaid programs in the last decade to cover low-income adults with children or disabilities found that their death rates declined.
- Kentucky's expansion cost during the first six years is estimated at \$547 million in state funds because the federal government will pick up 100% of expansion costs from 2014 to 2016. By putting up these additional state funds to expand Medicaid, Kentucky will attract more than \$11 billion in additional federal dollars to the state economy through 2019 and could add almost 15,000 jobs. The additional cost will be offset because the Medicaid expansion and availability of coverage through Health Exchanges under the ACA will reduce the amount of uncompensated care in Kentucky by an estimated \$687 million to as much as \$1.375 billion from 2014 to 2019. Given the reduction in uncompensated care, Kentucky would experience net savings of between \$140 million and \$828 million through 2019 by taking advantage of the ACA Medicaid offer.

In conclusion, please claim the federal funds set aside for us as a way to increase dramatically the health care access of Kentuckians and improve our economy and communities. And know that in our churches we pray regularly for public servants such as yourself as you face these momentous decisions and challenges.

Sincerely,

Mike Ward

The Rev. Mike Ward, Executive Board President

Marian M. Taylor

The Rev. Marian M. Taylor, Executive Director

Please remember the Council in your prayers and in your planned giving, annual giving, and church budgeting!

African Methodist Episcopal " African Methodist Episcopal Zion " Christian Church in KY " Christian Methodist Episcopal
Cumberland Presbyterian " Episcopal " Evangelical Lutheran Church in America " Kentucky Baptist Fellowship " Presbyterian Church USA
Roman Catholic " United Church of Christ " United Methodist " Union Church, Berea
Observer-Participants: Friends Meeting Berea/Lexington " Salvation Army (SWONEKY & KY/TN Divisions)
Ecumenical Partners: Church Women United " Church World Service " Kentuckiana Interfaith Community " Oikocredit "
Paducah Cooperative Ministry



111 Darby Shire Circle
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone 502-209-KDVA (5382)
Fax 502-226-KDVA (5382)
www.kdva.org

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) strongly supports expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. KDVA is an association of the state's 15 state-funded domestic violence programs. Expanding Medicaid will directly impact many of the more than 22,000 survivors who seek services at our shelters each year.

Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

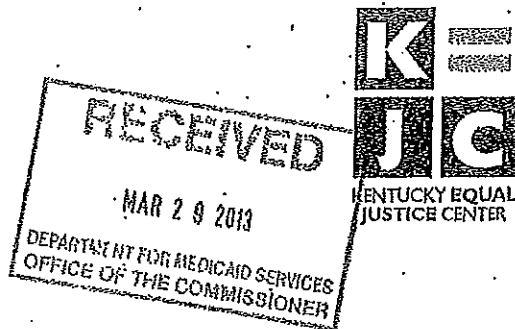
We also understand that the federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

Finally, we believe expanding Medicaid will help our economy, adding almost 15,000 jobs.

We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Doherty
Assistant Director



Kentucky Equal Justice Center
201 W. Short Street, Suite 310
Lexington, KY 40507

T: 859-233-3057
F: 859-233-0007

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Medicaid expansion would create security and opportunity

Dear Commissioner Kissner,

With this letter, I offer our enthusiastic support of for Kentucky's adoption of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and pledge to share that support again publicly should the Governor announce a decision to move forward. A number of recent findings from various quarters have made an impression on me. Under Medicaid expansion:

- An estimated 11,000 of Kentucky's uninsured veterans would be eligible for coverage
- Workers in a variety of occupations would be eligible, with food service and construction topping the list—and grocery, retail and child care not far behind
- An estimated 14,700 jobs would be created by bringing federal dollars here, an economic impact that rivals landing the Toyota plant

I know that you have gathered, received and studied a broad spectrum of information and asked tough questions to inform the Governor's decision. Rather than repeat or explain data, for the rest of this letter I will share a more personal perspective based on years of working with legal services staff and clients.

Kentucky Equal Justice Center is a multi-issue poverty law research and advocacy center for the state's civil legal services programs for low income people. We work with a variety of community partners on issues from health care to workers' rights to consumer protection.

Our track record on public benefits and health care is strong. As early as 1988, we worked with community partners and Rep. Tom Burch to improve income guidelines for AFDC so that parents could earn more without losing Medicaid, with cash grants phased out slowly as income rose.

Under those changes, long before KCHIP, about 10,000 families were able to keep Medicaid at higher levels of earnings. And something interesting happened: average AFDC cash grants went down.

I am convinced that the security provided by health coverage unleashes creativity and productivity and creates opportunity—whether to put in more hours, earn a better wage, change jobs, or start a small business.

In 1988, Kentucky cut off Medicaid at the lowest level of earnings of any state—a distinction that Rep. Burch remedied with broad bipartisan support. Since then, however, income guidelines have been stagnant. Working families now are ineligible for coverage or lose it at earnings far below the poverty level.

As well, many people are excluded from Medicaid not because they are not poor enough but because they fall in the wrong “category” for coverage—older workers and early retirees, for example, who may struggle with chronic health conditions that fall short of disability; and younger workers without children in the home.


For a period of time, I was well-versed in the categories and rules of Medicaid eligibility, for every category except the complex world of long term care. Often, I would receive calls from legal services offices, asking whether help was available with health care. Often, the client was sitting in a legal services office somewhere out in the state, waiting to see if I could come up with a “yes”.

Too often, the answer was no. Too often, it was coupled with strange advice:

- If you just earned a little less, you'd be eligible for Medicaid
- Wait until you are sicker and at least you can go to the hospital emergency room
- Be a one-parent family instead of a two parent family to get aid
- You'd be eligible if you had children, or one on the way

Quite apart from the jobs it creates, the uncompensated care it covers, the health outcomes it ultimately will change—and even apart from the dollars Kentuckians pay in federal taxes that will come here rather than go elsewhere—from day one, Medicaid expansion will begin to remove these absurd dilemmas and barriers. It will create security, broaden opportunity and enhance life choices that people can make.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Seckel
Director

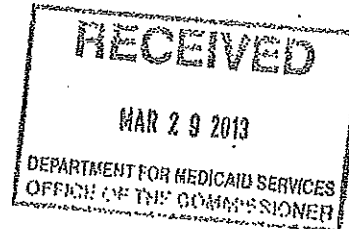
KENTUCKY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Steve Bing, Executive Director
140 Consumer Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Telephone: 502.875.2255
Fax: 502.226.5155
Web: www.khda-ky.org

March 26, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Kentucky Health Departments Association to urge you to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. Our members see Kentuckians every day in the health departments across the state with no insurance coverage. We work hard to try to serve those patients or link them to available resources. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow patients to access the healthcare resources they need.

Listed below are three of the main reasons our association believes this expansion should occur:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

Expanding Medicaid coverage to all eligible Kentuckians as outlined in the ACA will allow health departments to free up scarce resources to carry out our core public health mission. We support this expansion and stand ready to support the state in its implementation.

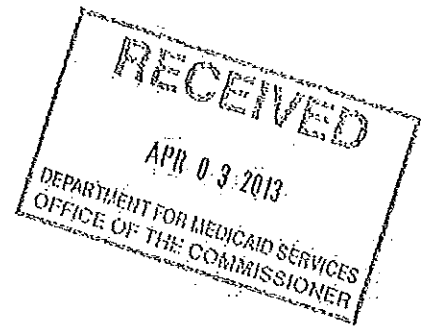
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Scott Lockard".

A. Scott Lockard
President
Kentucky Health Departments Association



Kentucky Health Justice Network



April 2, 2013

Lawrence Kissner, Commissioner
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

We write on behalf of the Kentucky Health Justice Network (KHJN) in support of Medicaid expansion to 138% of the federal poverty under the Affordable Care Act. KHJN is a reproductive justice organization that envisions a world where all women and men have control over their lives. It works to increase access to medical services regardless of gender, race, income, geographic location, and sexual orientation. We support the expansion of Medicaid because it will be good for women and reduce health disparities. A few of the examples of its impact include:

- Expansion would increase access to family planning services and supplies for low-income women and their families, many of whom are not categorically eligible currently.
- Expansion could provide assistance with transportation to needed medical appointments, which is especially important for Kentucky's rural residents and those in urban settings who rely on public transportation.
- Expansion will help slow the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, by allowing individuals to obtain testing and initiate treatment sooner. Currently, nearly 30% of people with HIV are uninsured, and up to 59% are not in regular care.¹

Additionally, because more than half of Kentucky's uninsured earn less than 138% of the federal poverty line, the state would particularly benefit from the expansion. Given that the federal

¹ Scott M. Hammer, MD, Antiretroviral Treatment as Prevention, 365 New Eng. J. Med 561 (Aug. 11, 2011).

government will pay 100% of the costs for the newly eligible residents, this is too good a deal to pass up. We hope that you will join us in supporting Medicaid expansion in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Farah Ardeshir
Lead Organizer



Anne Hadreas
President, Board of Directors



KentuckyOne Health

March 5, 2013

Secretary Audrey Haynes
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of the Secretary
275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Secretary Haynes:

As you know, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands Medicaid eligibility to all individuals under the age of 65 with earnings of up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. The law required the federal government to pay a 100 percent federal medical assistance percentage for the newly eligible individuals for the first three years, with the federal / state split lowering to 90 / 10 over time.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states are not required to expand coverage under the ACA provisions, and as a result, it is now up to each state to determine whether to expand its Medicaid program and receive federal funds that cover more of the costs.

Improving health care access and coverage for all Kentuckians is aligned with KentuckyOne Health's mission to improve the health of the individuals and communities we serve across the Commonwealth. KentuckyOne fully supports and encourages the expansion of Medicaid coverage to protect and improve the health and well-being of approximately 300,000 eligible Kentuckians. It is the right thing to do for our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Ruth W. Brinkley, FACHE
President & CEO

Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc.

207 Holmes Street, First Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-875-1320 Fax: 502-875-1399

Parent toll free number: 1-800-369-0533

E-mail: kpfc@kypartnership.org

www.kypartnership.org

April 4, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

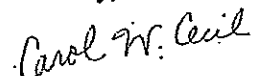
Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC), I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

KPFC provides education, advocacy and support for children and youth with behavioral health challenges and their families. I hope you will agree with KPFC and move forward with the expansion, so that families can find the appropriate, accessible services they need for appropriate mental and physical wellness.

Sincerely,



Carol W. Cecil, Executive Director

"Assisting Children and Youth with Behavioral Health Challenges"



KENTUCKY PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION, INC.

226 West Main Street
P. O. Box 751
Frankfort, KY 40602-0751



March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The Kentucky Primary Care Association supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. We represent Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics and Primary Care Centers with a shared mission to promote access to comprehensive, community-oriented primary health care services for the underserved throughout the Commonwealth.

As safety-net providers, our members serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care and hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

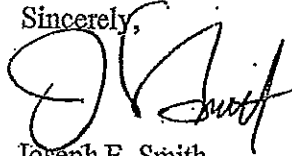
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Our members stand ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand their capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. E. Smith", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Joseph E. Smith
Executive Director



Kentucky
Psychological
Association

Promoting
psychology as a
science and a
profession.

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Shella A. Schuster, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant
Sarah Burress

April 3, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of the Kentucky Psychological Association, representing over 1,040 practitioners, academicians, researchers and students, I am writing to urge Governor Beshear to take action to extend health care services to more than 300,000 Kentuckians by expanding Medicaid eligibility to 138% of the federal poverty level.

This opportunity, afforded by the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, is one which should certainly not be overlooked. It has the potential to significantly improve the health of over one-half of the Kentuckians who are currently uninsured and without access to health care.

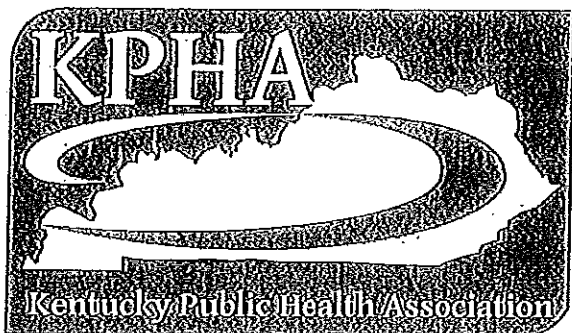
As researchers and providers of behavioral health services, psychologists are well aware of the interplay of behavioral and physical health issues, and the need to address both if the individual is to function to his or her full capability. Expanding eligibility to enroll in the Medicaid program would give these individual the opportunity to receive quality treatment, as well as the preventive services that lead to good health.

We stand in full support of the Medicaid Expansion in Kentucky and hope that the Governor will act soon to make this a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Willner, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Kentucky Public Health Association

P.O. Box 4647

Frankfort, Kentucky 40604-4647

Telephone: (502) 875-2255

Fax: (502) 226-5155

Email: kpha@fewpb.net

Web: www.kpha-ky.org

April 1, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

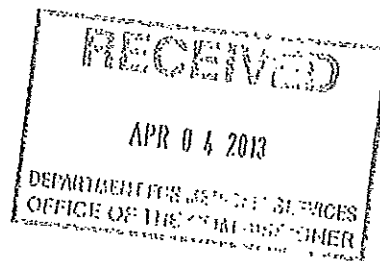
I am writing on behalf of the Kentucky Public Health Association to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this opportunity to provide access to care to over 400,000 people and improve Kentucky's health status while boosting the economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

These are only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Randy Gooch
President





THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

April 5, 2013

Dear Commissioner Kissner,

I am writing on behalf of the Kentucky Society for clinical social work to support the expansion of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky. This plan will increase the number of people getting medical treatment in Kentucky rather than accessing care through Emergency Medical and Psychiatric services. Depression costs employers each year billion of dollars in lost work days. This legislation will allow physical and mental health services to the population most in need.

Sincerely

Sally E. Rhoads, LCSW

KSCSW Legislative Chair



March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Regan Hunt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "H".

Regan Hunt, MPA.
Executive Director



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY
YOUTH
ADVOCATES
www.kyyouth.org

11001 Bluegrass Pkwy.
Suite 100
Jeffersontown, KY 40299

voice: 502.895.8167
fax: 502.895.8225
toll free: 888.825.5592

April 3, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Commissioner Kissner,

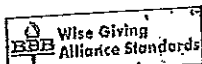
On behalf of Kentucky Youth Advocates, please accept this letter of support for Kentucky to expand Medicaid for adults to 138 percent of the federal poverty level beginning in January 2014. Kentucky Youth Advocates, a statewide child advocacy organization, is passionate about improving child well-being and public policies that influence the lives of children and families. Medicaid expansion will grant thousands of Kentuckians access to affordable health care, especially those living in low-income and vulnerable families.

Providing affordable health coverage for parents is one key way to improve overall family health and reduce the number of uninsured children, as described in the enclosed issue brief, *Medicaid Expansion in Kentucky: Kids Have Much to Gain*. A parent's health affects the health and well-being of other family members. Also, parents who have health coverage are more likely to enroll and keep their children enrolled in health coverage, resulting in more children staying connected to the health system. Approximately 61,000 children lack health insurance in Kentucky, and many of them may be eligible for Medicaid or KCHIP but are not enrolled. Most part-time and hourly jobs do not provide employer-sponsored insurance, and premiums may be unaffordable for low-income families even if employer-sponsored insurance is offered. Medicaid expansion coverage will enable parents to receive regular health care services and stay healthier overall. With more parents receiving timely health care services, high health care costs that result from delayed care will go down.

While it is not possible to determine the exact costs or savings of expansion, all studies make the case that expansion is a bargain for Kentucky. Additionally, a recent survey of Kentuckians showed that 63 percent supported accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid. Those in support included people from both sides of the political aisle. Expansion will not only improve the health of adults but also child and family health. The potential consequences of not expanding, including high costs of unmet health care needs, may potentially outweigh the expected costs of expanding. Kentucky's children cannot wait for more opportunities to come along to improve the health of our state. We are enthused, ready and willing to support Medicaid expansion in the state of Kentucky!

Sincerely,

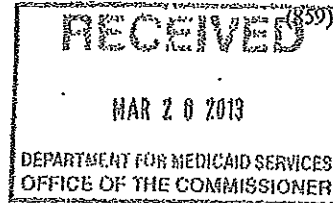
Terry Brooks
Executive Director





Lexington Fayette County Health Department

650 Newtown Pike
Lexington, Kentucky 40508-1197
(859) 252-2371
(859) 288-2359 Fax
(859) 288-7510 Medical Fax



March 22, 2013


Lawrence Kissner
Commissioner
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621

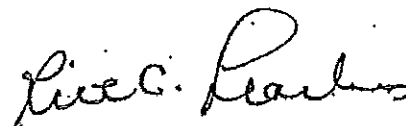
Dear Commissioner Kissner:

This is to advise you that the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department supports a decision to expand Medicaid eligibility to individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. It is obvious that many of the approximately 40,000 uninsured persons in Lexington will benefit from such a change. It is also evident that adding so many newly insured patients will require fund reallocations to support the initiative and will impact the health care system in many ways that it may or may not be prepared to manage at the outset.

Our support is accompanied by an assumption that the Department of Medicaid Services and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will be open to new ways to manage both the medical treatment and preventive services that will be required to manage this additional demand.

Sincerely,


Gary R. Wallace, MD
BOH Chairman


Rice C. Leach, MD
Commissioner of Health

Cc: Lexington-Fayette County Board of Health

Lewis County Health Department

Board of Health Members

Joe Bentley
Board Chairman

Wilma Dunbar
Board Secretary

Dr. Maurice Esham
Thomas "Gover"

Evans

Chad Evans

Barbara Jordan Kerns

Todd Ruckel

Ron Mays, DMD

Eugene O'Call

Dr. Sarah Porter, DO

Dawn Stanfield DVM

Michael Bertram,

OD

Anita Bertram

Public Health

Director

March 22, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Anita Bertram

Public Health Director



Public Health

185 Commercial Drive

P.O. Box 219

Vanceburg, Ky 41179

We are an equal

opportunity employer

and provider.

PHONE (606) 796-2632

FAX (606) 796-9285

E-MAIL anita.bertram@ky.gov

WEB SITE <http://www.lchd.org>

For hearing impaired services dial 711



Lewis County Primary Care Center, Inc.

Quality, Advanced, Affordable Healthcare

211 KY 59, P.O. Box 550 Vanceburg, KY 41179

Phone: 606-796-3029 Fax: 606-796-6221

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Lewis County Primary Care Center, Inc. supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

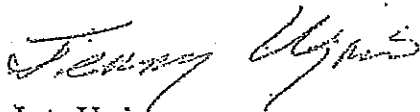
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Lewis County Primary Care Center, Inc. stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



Jerry Ugrin
CEO



Lincoln Trail District Health Department

108 NEW GLENDALE ROAD
P.O. BOX 2609
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42702-2609
(270) 769-1601
FAX (270) 765-7274

April 1, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth.

Other reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost. An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky will be paid to local healthcare providers.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Sims, MSN, FACHE

Director

Lincoln Trail District Health Department

GRAYSON CO. HEALTH CENTER
124 EAST WHITE OAK ST.
LEITCHFIELD, KENTUCKY 42754
(270) 259-3141

HARDIN CO. HEALTH CENTER - E-TOWN
580 WESTPORT ROAD
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701
(270) 765-6196

HARDIN CO. HEALTH CENTER - RADCLIFF
1463 NORTH WILSON
RADCLIFF, KENTUCKY 40160
(270) 352-2526

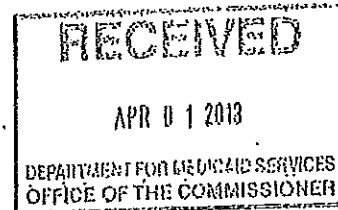
LARUE CO. HEALTH CENTER
215 EAST MAIN ST.
HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY 42748
(270) 358-3644

MARION CO. HEALTH CENTER
516 NORTH SPALDING AVE.
LEBANON, KENTUCKY 40033

MEADE CO. HEALTH CENTER
520 HILLCREST DRIVE
BRANDENBURG, KENTUCKY 40018

NELSON CO. HEALTH CENTER
325 SOUTH THIRD
HARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY 40011

WASHINGTON CO. HEALTH CENTER
302 EAST MAIN ST.
SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY 40069



Obstetrics & Gynecology

Internal Medicine

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

London Women's Care supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

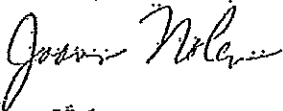
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

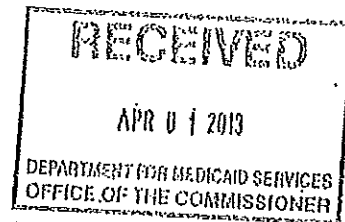
That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

London Women's Care stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



Joann Nolan
Practice Administrator



Obstetrics & Gynecology

Internal Medicine

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

London Women's Care supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

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London Women's Care stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Meckias', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Meckias, MD



**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH**

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

WILLIAM M. ALTMAN, JD, MA
BOARD CHAIR

GABRIELA ALCALDE, MPH
BOARD VICE-CHAIR

April 5, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Louisville Metro Board of Health Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As a public health entity committed to promoting and protecting equitable physical, mental, and environmental health in the Louisville community, we are writing to you to voice our support for expanding Medicaid. In a state with high rates of poverty and other conditions that undermine health and wellbeing, we believe that providing health coverage for low-income individuals and families is the right thing to do from an individual and population health perspective.

Lack of access to care has significant economic and human costs and negatively impacts health care providers as individuals. Study projections from other states estimate that expanding Medicaid would result in measurable improvements in health access, health costs, and economic inputs. Because the individuals who would gain coverage through the expansion are currently uninsured, providers and health care facilities would benefit from being reimbursed for care that is currently uncompensated. Further, as the Disproportionate Share Hospital payments decrease over the next few years, receiving reimbursement for currently uninsured individuals will be particularly important to hospitals in Kentucky.

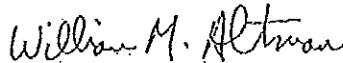
Commissioner Lawrence Kissner

April 5, 2013

Page 2

With the federal government's generous match rate (and Kentucky's already high FMAP) and wide public support for expanding Medicaid, the Medicaid expansion is not only the ethical thing to do, but also the financially responsible decision for Kentucky. In order for Kentucky to take advantage of the coming health policy changes, we need to make sure that as much of our population has access to quality care as possible.

Sincerely,



William M. Altman, JD, Chair

Gabriela Alcalde, MPH, DrPH, Vice-chair

LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH

Sherry Babbage, DMD

Karen Cost, PhD

Michael Needleman, MD

Connie Sorrell, MPH

Jerry Temes, MD

Anthony Zippie, PhD

Michael Auslander, DVM, Ex-Officio Member

Robert Steiner, MD PhD, Ex-Officio Member

William B. Wagner, Ex-Officio Member



Manchester Memorial Hospital

210 Mule Langdon Drive
Manchester, KY 40962
Telephone 606-598-5104
Fax 606-598-7008

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Manchester Memorial Hospital supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

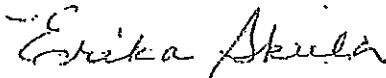
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers.

Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Manchester Memorial Hospital stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erika Skula".

Erika Skula
CEO



April 1, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Mental Health America of Kentucky supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha M. Newman".

Martha M. Newman, Executive Director

www.mhaky.org



120 Sears Avenue • Suite 213 • Louisville, Kentucky 40207-5072 • P: 502.893.0460 • mhaky@mhaky.org

Metro United Way



Metro United Way

LIVE UNITED®

Metro United Way
334 East Broadway
PO Box 4488
Louisville KY 40204-0488
ph: 502 583-2821
fx: 502 583-0330

April 2, 2013

Oldham County
PO Box 431
LaGrange KY 40031
ph: 502 222-7172
fx: 502 633-1406

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Shelby County
179 Alpine Drive
Shelbyville KY 40065
ph: 502 633-4484
fx: 502 633-1406

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Clark, Floyd and
Harrison Counties
405 E. Court Avenue
Suite 3, PO Box 476
Jeffersonville IN
47131-0476
ph: 812 282-7587
fx: 812 206-7415

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy.

Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

Metro United Way's vision is a community whose people achieve their fullest potential through education, financial stability, and healthy lives. We know that access to healthcare has huge impact on parent's ability to maintain a stable household and support their children's educational success. Educational success is our top priority for our

Metro United Way



Metro United Way

LIVE UNITED®

Metro United Way
334 East Broadway
PO Box 4488
Louisville KY 40204-0488
ph: 502 583-2821
fx: 502 583-0330

community — we aspire for all children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and all youth to graduate high school prepared for college, work and life.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Oldham County
PO Box 431
LaGrange KY 40031
ph: 502 222-7172
fx: 502 633-1406

Sincerely,

Joe Tojan
President & CEO
Metro United Way
Joe.tojan@metrounitedway.org

Shelby County
179 Alpine Drive
Shelbyville KY 40065
ph: 502 633-4484
fx: 502 633-1406

Clark, Floyd and
Harrison Counties
405 E. Court Avenue
Suite 3, PO Box 476
Jeffersonville IN
47131-0476
ph: 812 282-7587
fx: 812 206-7415



Metropolitan
Housing
Coalition

P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533
www.metropolitanhousing.org

502-584-6858
502-452-6718 FAX

April 4, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition has focused on fair and affordable housing issues in the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area since its origin in 1989. MHC has over 350 members who share the belief that fair and affordable standard housing is necessary for all people to thrive and participate in our great Commonwealth.

Health care costs have long been a barrier for households to enjoy stable, affordable and standard housing and MHC has had reports on how health and health costs prevent people from having stable housing. MHC did focus groups talking about the hard choices people had to make in either purchasing medication and paying rent. MHC did a study of all residential foreclosures filed in a six month period and conducted interviews with people in foreclosure and found that medical costs were frequently a significant factor in losing a home to foreclosure.

Our reports and those of the Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness show that there are terrible health outcomes in areas with low-incomes, including high numbers and percentages of residents without health care coverage. This is a life or death issue.

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.

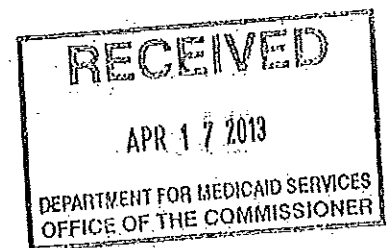
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- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Hinko', written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Hinko
Executive Director



April 15, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing on behalf of the Migrant Network Coalition to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level, as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The Migrant Network Coalition is a group of public and private organizations working to improve services for immigrants and refugees by providing community education, raising awareness about barriers to equal community participation, and sharing information among service providers and with the community at-large through a network of nonprofit organizations. Many of our members are health care providers or involved in the health delivery system.

We support the expansion because it is a historic opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky at little cost to the state. We also are particularly excited by the potential to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. As you know, people of color are more likely to have low-incomes and be uninsured. For example, almost 70% of nonelderly white residents hold employer-based coverage compared to only 40% of Latinos.¹ Additionally, as of 2008, racial and ethnic minorities comprised about 52% of all uninsured childless adults with incomes at or below 133% FPL.² Finally, people with limited English proficiency face additional barriers to receiving health care and jobs that provide health insurance.

Overall, expanding Medicaid is good for Kentucky's health and a sound business decision. Given that the newly eligible population will be 100% covered by the federal government for the first three years, this is too good a deal to pass up. We strongly encourage you to work with Governor Beshear to take advantage of this opportunity and provide health coverage to hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians.

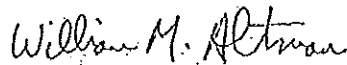
¹ AM C. PHYSICIANS, RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE -- UPDATED 5 (2010).

² Kaiser Family Foundation, Expanding Medicaid Under Health Reform: A Look At Childless Adults At or Below 133% of Poverty (April 2010), available at <http://tinyurl.com/9x5qny9>.

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
April 5, 2013
Page 2

With the federal government's generous match rate (and Kentucky's already high FMAP) and wide public support for expanding Medicaid, the Medicaid expansion is not only the ethical thing to do, but also the financially responsible decision for Kentucky. In order for Kentucky to take advantage of the coming health policy changes, we need to make sure that as much of our population has access to quality care as possible.

Sincerely,



William M. Altman, JD, Chair

Gabriela Alcalde, MPH, DrPH, Vice-chair
LaQuandra Nesblitt, MD, MPH
Sherry Babbage, DMD
Karen Cost, PhD
Michael Needleman, MD
Connie Sorrell, MPH
Jerry Temes, MD
Anthony Zippel, PhD
Michael Auslander, DVM, Ex-Officio Member
Robert Steiner, MD PhD, Ex-Officio Member
William B. Wagner, Ex-Officio Member

(606) 348-3365



Monticello Medical Associates

Rural Health Services

One South Creek Drive • Suite 102 - South Creek Medical Center • Monticello, KY 42633

Family Practice

Gerald R. Pratt, M.D.
Ronald M. McFarland, M.D.
Richard B. Mayer, Jr., D.O.
Sheyl B. Pells, A.R.N.P.
Peter Petrakos, M.D.
Sarah DeBard, A.R.N.P.
Bonnie Staehle, A.R.N.P.
Pamela A. Melley, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Yasha C. Martinez, M.D.
Cheryl L. Roberts, M.D.
Peter Burrows-Cox, M.D.

Robert A. Parmelee
Administrator

Pediatrics

Peter Burrows-Cox, M.D.
Dana Lister, D.O.

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Monticello Medical Associates supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.

- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Monticello Medical Associates stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Parmelee, Administrator
Monticello Medical Associates
One South Creek Drive, Suite 102
Monticello, Ky. 42633



Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

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- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

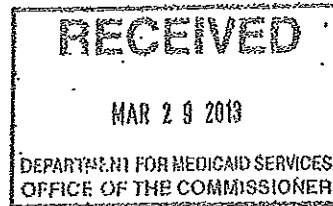
Sincerely,

/s/ L.M. Caudill

L.M. (Mike) Caudill, CEO
Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation
PO Box 40
226 Medical Plaza Lane
Whitesburg, KY 41858
(606) 633-4823 (W)
(606) 633-1874 (F)



Kentucky



808 Monticello Street
Somerset, Kentucky 42501

Telephone: 606.451.6935

Fax: 606-677-4052

Helpline: 1-800-257-5081
(Toll-free in Kentucky)

Email: namiky@bellsouth.net

Website: ky.nami.org

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

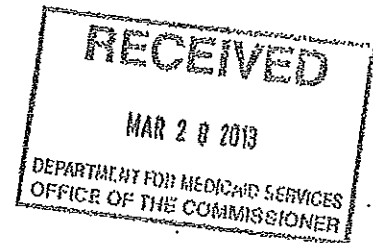
That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

Cathy Epperson
Executive Director



Kentucky Chapter
76 C. Michael Davenport Dr. Ste. 4
Frankfort, KY 40601
www.naswky.org



March 26, 2012

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner,

Our organization is writing on behalf of the over 5,000 social workers in Kentucky as well as our clients, who are the most vulnerable citizens in the commonwealth, to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act.

Day in and day out social workers meet with individuals and families who are hampered by the health care system. There are currently 621,000 uninsured Kentuckians and over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion of Medicaid. By expanding Medicaid, Kentucky would be taking a giant leap in not only improving the health of its citizens, but also the economy. In doing so, we can alleviate systemic issues associated with poverty-substance use, child abuse, and domestic violence. Eliminating barriers to health care coverage would greatly assist social workers by taking away those things impeding the functioning and well-being of individuals and families.

An important piece to Medicaid expansion is that the Federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. The question now becomes, why would we not do this? The return on investment includes taking away the \$1 billion associated with uninsured Kentuckians and creating 15,000 jobs. These are only a fraction of reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with expansion.

Sincerely,

Jordan Wildermuth, MSW, CSW
Executive Director



NORTON
HEALTHCARE
NortonHealthcare.com

P.O. Box 35070
Louisville, KY 40232-5070
502-629-8025

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Steven Beshear
Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

We are writing to voice our support for the expansion of the Medicaid program in Kentucky under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Given the Commonwealth's poor health status-- the nation's highest mortality rate and rankings among the highest in cancer, cardiovascular disease and obesity—expanded coverage will help eliminate barriers to care. Additionally, the availability of an additional \$11 billion from the federal government could help almost half of Kentucky's uninsured or 417,000 citizens and boost the state's economy.

We stand ready to help find ways to further advance the health and wellness of all Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Cox
President and Chief Operating Officer
Norton Healthcare

cc: CHFS Secretary Audrey Haynes



PARK DUVALLE
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

As the oldest non-profit federally qualified health center in Metro Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Park DuValle Community Health Center is deeply committed to improving health, wellness and the quality of life in the communities we serve by providing safe, high quality, accessible and affordable preventive and primary health care. In light of this mission, we fully support efforts to improve the health and well-being of our communities and the lives of some of the most vulnerable residents of the Commonwealth. Therefore, Park DuValle Community Health Center, Inc. wholeheartedly supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured and up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.

Primary care centers owned and operated by Park DuValle Community Health Center, Inc.

www.pdchc.org

• Park DuValle Community Health Center • 3015 Wilson Avenue • Louisville, KY 40211 • 502/774-4401 • Fax 502/775-6195 •

• Park DuValle at City View • 1015 West Chestnut Street • Louisville, KY 40203 • 502/584-2992 • Fax 502/584-3715 •

• Park DuValle at East Main • 275 East Main Street • Frankfort, KY 40621 • 502/477-2249 • Fax 502/477-0356 •

- Kentucky currently ranks among the states having the highest levels in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for newly eligible Kentucky residents for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. The money infused into our economy is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers in communities throughout the Commonwealth. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

The above facts are only a few of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Park DuValle Community Health Center, Inc. stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

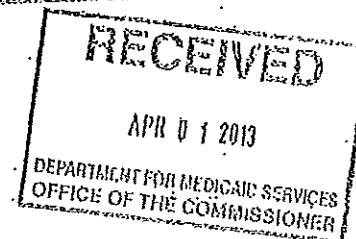
Sincerely,



Anthony Omojasola, DrPH, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

THE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

March 28, 2013



Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of Passport Health Plan's Partnership Council, please accept this letter in support of the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky for individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and have the federal government cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. This is a chance to better Kentucky's health status by addressing the following issues:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Passport Health Plan is a unique public-private partnership with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a provider sponsored Medicaid health plan serving members in 16 Kentucky counties for the last 15 years. Our mission is to improve the health and quality of life of our members.

The Partnership Council is a broad coalition of local consumers and providers, including consumer representatives, physicians, nurses, hospitals, health departments and ancillary providers. The Partnership Council oversees many aspects of Passport's operations including quality, member and patient satisfaction, and the primary care incentive program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howard F. Bracco".

Howard F. Bracco, Ph.D.
Chairman, Passport Health Plan's Partnership Council

HFB:sb

PASSPORT
HEALTH PLAN



... in 16 Kentucky Counties

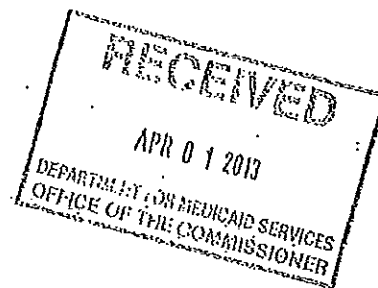
PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN



5100 COMMERCE CROSSINGS DRIVE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40229
502-585-7900 / 800-578-0603
WWW.PASSPORTHEALTHPLAN.COM

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of Passport Health Plan, please accept this letter in support of the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky for individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and have the federal government cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. This is a chance to better Kentucky's health status by addressing the following issues:

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That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Passport Health Plan is a unique public-private partnership with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a provider sponsored Medicaid health plan serving members in 16 Kentucky counties for the last 15 years. Our mission is to improve the health and quality of life of our members.

Sincerely,

William B. Wagner
Chairman of the Board

Mark B. Carter
Chief Executive Officer



People Advocating Recovery is a statewide group of concerned individuals working to eliminate barriers to recovery from addiction.

April 4, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. This is a great chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Over 400,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.

- Medicaid expansion could add almost 15,000 jobs to our economy.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky.
We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

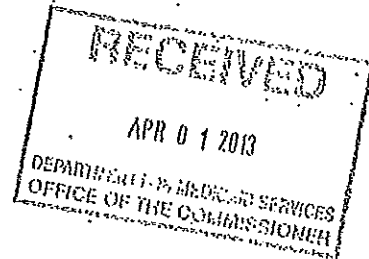
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael W. Barry".

Michael W. Barry
CEO

Pike County Health Department

119 RIVER DRIVE - PHONE (606) 437-5500
PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY 41501



March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

On behalf of the Pike County Health Department, I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. This expansion would provide an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky which unfortunately leads the nation in poor health. As the Interim Director of a county that leads Kentucky in poor health, I feel we should most certainly take advantage of this chance to improve our health status and economy.

With this expansion, up to an additional 417,000 Kentuckians, including 5,127 residents of Pike County, could be covered by Medicaid. This is an opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care for these individuals. A study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky - which has the highest mortality rate in the nation - could reduce its death rate by 6%.

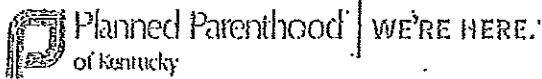
In addition to improving the physical health of our state, Medicaid expansion would also have a positive impact on Kentucky's economy. The additional \$11 billion in federal dollars that would be received would not be paid to Medicaid recipients but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars would then flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars. It seems Kentucky cannot afford to pass up this historic opportunity.

I have listed just a couple of the reasons why expansion is a good idea for our state. I hope you will agree with me and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Hamilton".

Cynthia Hamilton
Interim Public Health Director



March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Planned Parenthood of Kentucky supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

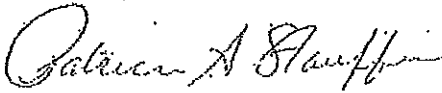
- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers.

Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Planned Parenthood of Kentucky stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive family planning/reproductive health care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Stauffer".

Patricia A. Stauffer
Vice President, Strategic Implementation



100 Fair Oaks Lane, Third Floor
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Telephone: (502) 564-2967
Toll Free: (800) 372-2988

TTY: (800) 372-2988
Fax: (502) 564-0848

December 21, 2012

Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of the Secretary
275 E. Main St., 5W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

RE: Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act

Dear Secretary Haynes:

As you are aware Kentucky Protection and Advocacy protects and promotes the rights of individuals with disabilities through information, referral, training, and legal advocacy. I write today to urge the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to support Medicaid expansion in Kentucky under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Medicaid expansion would provide critically needed health coverage to Kentuckians with disabilities and others, and patch the monetary gap that will be left after the disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments are reduced.

The ACA as enacted required states to provide Medicaid coverage to nearly all individuals under age 65 with incomes at or below 133% of the federal poverty level. The U.S. Supreme Court's ACA decision in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* made this requirement optional. States now have the choice of covering the 133% population (138% with the standard 5% of income disregard).

The ACA decision kept intact the law's significant reduction in DSH payments. DSH payments help offset the uncompensated cost of charitable and safety-net hospital care to low-income individuals. The Congress designed Medicaid expansion and DSH reductions to be interdependent—DSH goes down while the 133% get covered. Low-income individuals will still seek hospital care regardless of whether Kentucky expands Medicaid coverage. If we choose not to expand, who will pay for their care?

As best I understand there are no up-front costs to Kentucky if we choose to expand Medicaid to the 133% population. The federal match for expanded Medicaid is 100% through 2016 and it will gradually diminish to about 90% in 2020 where it will remain permanently. According to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured,

Page Two
Haynes
12/21/12

Medicaid expansion would reduce Kentucky's uninsured population by more than 55%.¹ We can reduce Kentucky's uninsured population by more than half with the federal government paying all or most of the cost.

Further, a report by the Urban Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, analyzing the savings each state would realize as a result of expanded health coverage under the ACA, estimates Kentucky could save as much as \$828 million from 2014 to 2019.²

Many P&A eligible clients currently rely on Medicaid but unfortunately, many other P&A eligible clients are uninsured. Expanding Medicaid will insure coverage for the vast majority of those uninsured and mend the DSH monetary gap. Kentucky P&A supports ACA Medicaid expansion.

Please let me know if you need any assistance from P&A on this critical issue.

Season's Greetings!

Sincerely,



Marsha Hockensmith

Director

Kentucky Protection & Advocacy

¹ <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8384.pdf>

² <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412361-consider-savings.pdf>

Public Life Foundation of Owensboro
401 Frederica Street, B-203
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Expanding Medicaid makes sense, and it's the right thing to do

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I encourage you to expand state Medicaid eligibility to include coverage of individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level. This was the intent of the federal Affordable Care Act.

This is the right thing to do. It will improve the health of Kentuckians. And it makes economic sense.

Let's cover 400,000 of our 600,000 uninsured Kentuckians.

Let's reduce cost by enabling more people to receive preventive care.

Let's help Kentucky become one of the healthiest states in the U.S. (rather than one of the sickest).

Let's create 15,000 jobs by expanding Medicaid.

Our foundation facilitates broad and meaningful citizen participation in community decisions and public policy. In our health care forums, we consistently hear from people who are frustrated and victimized by our health care system. By expanding Medicaid coverage, we will provide vital assistance for many uninsured and underinsured individuals and families in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Rodney Berry
President



April 5, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I direct the statewide asset building coalition called Raise Kentucky. Our overall emphasis is to assist every Kentuckian to become economically self sufficient. Expanding Medicaid coverage is critical for economic self sufficiency.

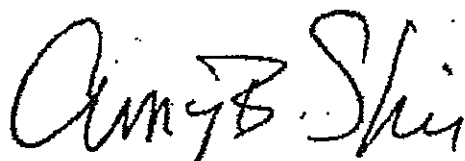
I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.

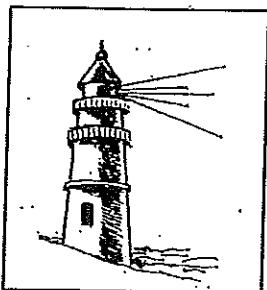
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion. We see Medicaid expansion as a "Win-Win" for the Commonwealth of KY and all of her citizens striving to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Shir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Shir
Director
Raise Kentucky
Amy.shir@insightbb.com



SAFE HARBOR

of Northeast Kentucky, Inc.

Domestic Violence Shelter and Advocacy Center for Families

P.O. Box 2163, Ashland, KY 41105 -- (606) 329-9304 -- TDD 1-800-926-2150

Fax (606) 324-6855 -- www.safeharborky.org

Monday, April 1, 2013

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Safe Harbor writes in support of expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Safe Harbor is an emergency services shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Ashland. Expanding Medicaid will directly impact the women, men and children who seek services at our shelter. We are part of a network of crisis shelters across the state that recognizes the effect such an expansion could have on the 23,865 survivors we served last year.

According to a survey of uninsured Kentuckians, many are using all or most of their savings toward healthcare. Others without proper health insurance are not filling prescriptions, not seeing specialists and skipping much needed medical treatment.

Safe Harbor provides services to Greenup, Boyd, Carter, Elliot and Lawrence County. The 2010 census data shows that if Medicaid were expanded to 138% of the poverty level, 9,647 of uninsured individuals under 65 in our Northeastern Kentucky service area would become eligible for Medicaid. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured found that 329,000 would become eligible for Medicaid in Kentucky. This is an increase of 57% of uninsured individuals receiving coverage, the largest of any other state.

Please join us in promoting a healthier Kentucky by supporting this expansion.

Sincerely,

Ann Perkins

Executive Director

Safe Harbor



"Creating homes free of violence"





Seven Counties Services, Inc.

www.sevencounties.org

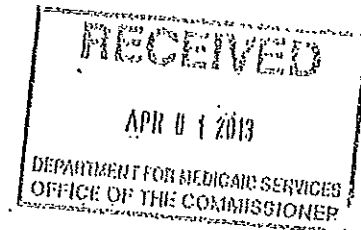
For clinical appointments

call 589-1100
or 1-800-264-8799
TDD-589-4259
or 1-877-589-4259

Corporate Office
101 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Louisville KY 40202-1451
502-589-8600
FAX 502-589-8614

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I am writing to express Seven Counties Services' unqualified and enthusiastic support for a decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. We believe that Medicaid coverage should expand to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level, as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The proposed expansion represents an opportunity to identify and deliver thousands more needed services to many more individuals in our region who suffer from mental illnesses and addiction and who experience developmental and intellectual disabilities. Here are some of additional reasons that lead us to urge this administration to elect this opportunity to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would aid our state's economy.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and move forward with the expansion.

Sincerely,


Anthony M. Zippie, Sc.D., MBA
President and CEO

Providing behavioral health,
chemical dependency, and
developmental disabilities
planning and services for birth,
infancy, childhood, and adulthood

Sisters of Loretto
515 Nerinx Road
Nerinx, KY 40049-9999

July 13, 2012

Governor Steve Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

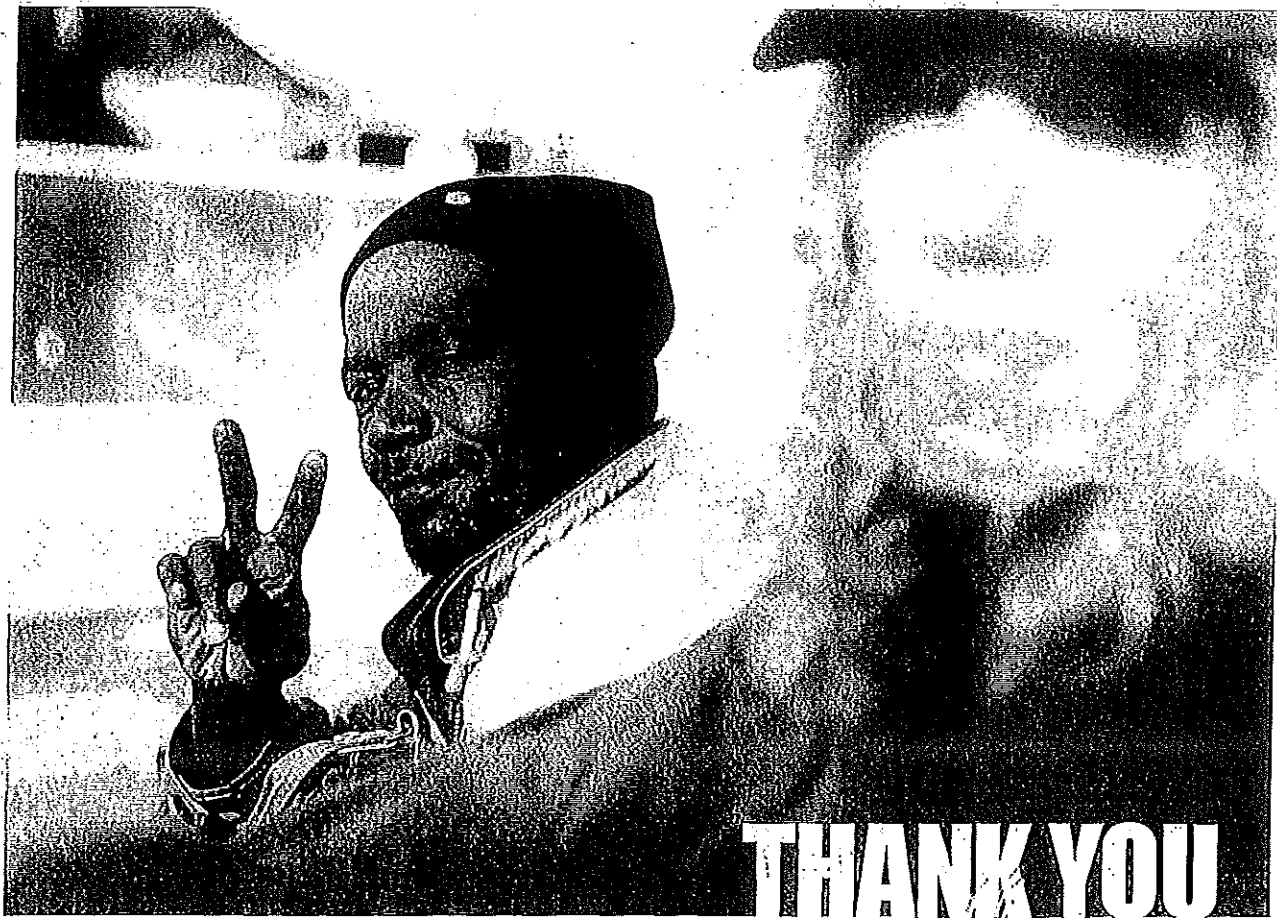
We are pleased with the Supreme Court decision that upheld most of the Affordable Healthcare Act. We believe strongly that health care is a right of each citizen. Our only concern is that every state has the right to refuse the portion of the Act that expands Medicaid eligibility.

We ask you to accept the Affordable Healthcare Act's provision to provide expanded Medicaid eligibility for Kentuckians. If you have already decided to take part in the expansion, let this letter be a support to that decision.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Otseck, SL
Theresa L. Coyle, SL
Jeanne Jackson, SL
Eva Marie Dulac, S.L.
Marie Lourde Stachler, S.L.
Pauline Albini, S.L.
Nicollette Eloy, S.L.
Elizabeth Croon, SL
Margaret R. Kroll, SL
Mary Ken Lewis, S.L.
Judey Jopp, SL
Jean Johnson, S.L.
Hilbert Underwood
Lupe Arriaga
Eileen Cuddy, S.L.

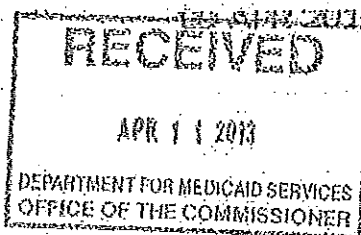
Patricia Manion, SL
Becky Lebo, SL
Rose Colly, SL
Lois Dunphy, SL
Katherine Mitz, S.L.
Antoinette Doyle, S.L.
Patricia Hummer, S.L.
Janet Rabudeau, SL
Mary G. Lister, S.L.
Genevieve McDonald, SL
Charles George Phillips
Rosaki M. Phillips
Mary Smith
Cecily Jones, S.L.
Gloria Merrill, S.L.



ONE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

ST. JOHN CENTER FOR HOMELESS MEN
700 E. MUHAMMAD ALI BOULEVARD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202

LOUISVILLE KY 400



Commissioner Kissner,
Medicaid Expansion will
help the homeless men we
serve because they'll have
greater access to some long-
term solutions to homelessness.

Thanks for being one who makes all the difference.
Because of you, men like Jeff and Donnie can
continue to seek help at St. John Center, find
hope, and move forward. Thank you!

**THANKS FOR BELIEVING
THEY'RE WORTH IT.**

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health & Family Services
Dept of Medicaid Services
275 E Main St 6W-A
Frankfort Ky 40621

Mark Price, Executive Director





March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

Sterling Health Solutions, Inc. in a new community Health Center in Kentucky, and we fully support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

Sterling Health Solutions, Inc. stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

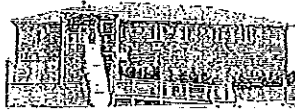
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer W. NeSmith', is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer W. NeSmith, MBA
CEO/Executive Director

Sterling Health Care
209 N. Maysville Rd., Ste 200
Mt. Sterling, KY 40353
859-404-7686

Sterling Womens Care
15 Sterling Avenue
Mt. Sterling, KY 40353
859-498-2323



Gorman Hall

LOCAL 227 UFCW

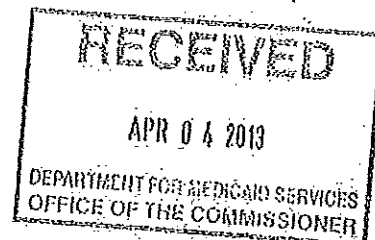
3330 Pinecroft Drive
Louisville, KY 40219-3011
502/582-3508
800/443-5191
Fax 502/582-9152

April 2, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

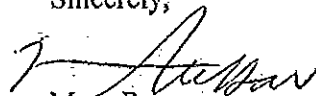


I am writing to support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of federal poverty level as intended by the Affordable Care Act. The expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky. It is a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

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Sincerely,

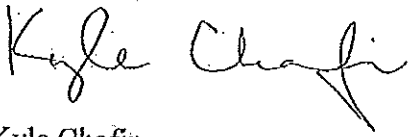

Marv Russow
President

Marv Russow
President



Mike Matuszak
Secretary-Treasurer

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kyle Chafin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kyle Chafin
Co-Chair

United Clinics of Kentucky

Nadeem Shaikh, MD
Amy Terry, APRN
Courtney Hager, APRN

239 Mountain Parkway Spur
PO BOX 220
Campton, KY 41301

Srinivas Rapuri, MD
Reagan Poe, PA-C

606-668-6932 (phone) 606-668-3125 (fax)

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

United Clinics of Kentucky supports the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

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United Clinics of Kentucky

Nadeem Shaikh, MD
Amy Terry, APRN
Courtney Hager, APRN

239 Mountain Parkway Spur
PO BOX 220
Campton, KY 41301

Srinivas Rapuri, MD
Reagan Poe, PA- C

606-668-6932 (phone) 606-668-3125 (fax)

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- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

United Clinics of Kentucky stands ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nadeem Shaikh M.D.
Medical Director
United Clinics of Kentucky

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Steve L. Beshear
State Capitol
700 Capitol Ave., Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

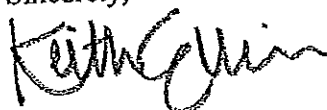
We are writing to ask you to stand with hard-working Americans by publicly affirming that you intend to expand your Medicaid program, which will protect struggling Americans from health risks and financial uncertainty. Since the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act several governors have stated they will not implement the law by expanding Medicaid in their states. We have serious concerns that governors will refuse the Medicaid expansion for misguided political reasons and will prevent more than 17 million Americans who need coverage from receiving increased access to health care.

The Medicaid expansion provides high-quality health care coverage for individuals earning less than \$15,000 a year. Once the expansion takes place millions of Americans will have access to a family doctor and preventive care, which cost far less than emergency or catastrophic medical care. Without the expansion, hospitals and doctors will continue to incur the high costs of caring for the uninsured, resulting in shifted costs that make coverage less affordable for those with insurance.

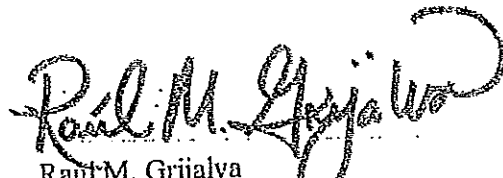
The federal government currently provides states 57% of their Medicaid funds on average and all 50 states have chosen to participate. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government will provide 100 percent of the expansion funds for the first three years and 90 percent of the funds after 2020. States that currently have the lowest Medicaid coverage levels, like Alabama and Texas, stand to benefit most from federal payments to expand coverage. What's more, states that reject Medicaid expansion will lose out on an opportunity to create jobs in the health care sector.

Each day children and adults contract minor illnesses that go untreated and become major ones—or are diagnosed with major illnesses that become tragic. Health care needs are immediate and families should not have to postpone treatment until after an election. We ask that you refuse to play politics with people's health and publicly support expanding health care access to the thousands of people in your state who need it today.

Sincerely,



Keith M. Ellison
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Raul M. Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim M^{rs} Lovett

Steve Cohen

John W. Oliver

Larry Evans

Cher

Laura Richardson

Hansen Clarke

Frank Johnson

Michael C. Caputo

Peter Welch

Earl Blum

W. M. C. L.

Michael M. Hinda

Sam Fann

Wm. Lacy Clay

Bob Filner

John Conyers

Edward H. Rosten

Dennis J. Kucinich

Ed Pastor

Ruddie Bernice Johnson

James Hahn

Jan F. H. G.

Corine Brown

Melanie Waters

Suzanne Brannan

Charles B. Rangel

Elaine H. Gort

Danny K. Davis

Philip Johnson

Cleaved J. Mackey

Jim Moore

Ernest Moore

Lynn Woolsey

Barbara Lee

Dr. V. Better

Eljich E. Jennings

Gerold Haddock

Jack Flier

Jim Hoffman

Frederick Wilson

RE

Robt A Brady



May 7, 2013

The Honorable Steve Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

On June 28, 2012 the United States Supreme Court upheld most of the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). However, the Court restricted the federal government's ability to withhold federal Medicaid funds if a state elects not to institute the expansion of its Medicaid program to include individuals who are at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. This effectively gave the Commonwealth of Kentucky a choice whether to expand coverage under Medicaid.

As you know, the federal government is required to provide 100 percent of the necessary funding for the expansion population during each of the first three years of the program and will provide at least 90 percent of the necessary funding after the year 2020. In Kentucky, there are approximately 288,000 Kentuckians who could become eligible for Medicaid if you choose to expand the program. Expansion of Medicaid will provide millions of dollars to Kentucky for coverage so patients are able to more appropriately access care.

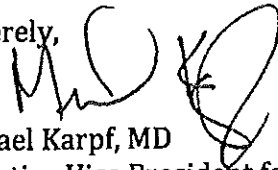
UK HealthCare serves the health care needs of a significant number of uninsured individuals. Many of these uninsured residents currently utilize our emergency rooms for non-emergent conditions which could be more appropriately and inexpensively treated by a primary care physician or an urgent treatment center. Expanding Medicaid coverage to include these uninsured individuals will allow them to access care in more coordinated manner and improve our ability to effectively manage both acute and chronic conditions for this vulnerable population.

UK HealthCare also faces significant reimbursement cuts which are mandated by the ACA, including reductions to our Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments. These reimbursement cuts without additional coverage for individuals would potentially put our ability to serve Kentucky's most vulnerable population at risk.

I recognize the difficulty you face in making such public policy decisions, but I believe that expansion of Kentucky's Medicaid program under ACA to provide coverage for these vulnerable populations would serve to improve the overall health of Kentuckians.

I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



Michael Karpf, MD

Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Office of the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

University of Kentucky • 317 Wethington Building • 900 South Limestone • Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0200
Phone: (859) 323-5126 • Fax: (859) 323-1918 • www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu



David L. Dunn, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Professor of Surgery, Microbiology and Immunology

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Audrey Haynes
Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Secretary Haynes:

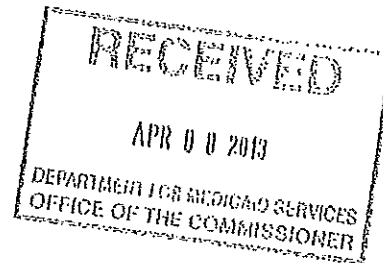
I am extremely pleased to provide my support of the proposal to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky and assure that all of its citizens have access to high quality, affordable health care. A great bargain for the Commonwealth, expansion of Medicaid eligibility provides an opportunity to make prevention a priority for Kentucky's health policies and programs, improves the efficiency and effectiveness of health care for all Kentuckians, and thus enhances the health of Kentucky, including its children. Here are some of the reasons we hope you take advantage of this chance to better Kentucky's health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured; Medicaid coverage should be expanded to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level;
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us; annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion;
- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease; research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%;
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years, which will enable Kentucky to cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost;
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky over the next five years would have a significant impact on the economy since the money will be paid to local health care providers ensuring that the dollars will flow into the economy as indirect spending boosting the state budget through tax dollars.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to comment on Kentucky's proposal to expand Medicaid eligibility. I believe that this proposal is key to improving the future health of all Kentuckians, and encourage you to move forward with the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

David L. Dunn, M.D., Ph.D.





WHITE HOUSE
CLINICS

Opening the door to quality healthcare.

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department of Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

MCKEE
1010 Main Street South
McKee, Kentucky, 40447

P 606.287.7104
F 606.287.3323

BEREA
104 Legacy Drive
Berea, Kentucky, 40403

P 859.986.2323
F 859.986.7728

BEREA PRIMARY CARE
305 Estill Street
Berea, Kentucky, 40403

P 859.985.1415
F 859.986.6752

RICHMOND
401 Highland Park Dr.
Richmond, Kentucky, 40475

P 859.626.7700
F 859.626.7703

IRVINE
30 Stacy Lane Road
Irvine, Kentucky, 40336

P 606.723.0665
F 606.723.0680

MT. VERNON
185 Newcomb Avenue
Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, 40456

P 606.256.2143
F 606.256.9762

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

White House Clinics support the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. As a safety-net provider, we serve Kentucky's low-income residents, including the Medicaid population as well as individuals and families who are uninsured. Our patients face tremendous barriers to care that contribute to some of the worst health outcomes in the country. Too often, low income uninsured Kentuckians experience long waits for appointments and cannot access care until their condition becomes severe enough to require expensive emergency care or hospitalization. By expanding Medicaid to cover individuals and families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, these barriers to care will be greatly reduced as our safety-net strengthens across the state.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to enhance the health of Kentucky and a great bargain for the Commonwealth. Here are some of the reasons we hope Kentucky will take advantage of this chance to better our health status and economy:

- At least 621,000 Kentuckians currently are uninsured. Up to 417,000 of them could be covered by the expansion.
- Having so many uninsured affects all of us. The annual costs associated with uninsured Kentuckians are estimated at more than \$1 billion.

- Kentucky currently ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in terms of mortality, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health suggests that by expanding coverage, Kentucky can reduce its death rate by 6%.
- The federal government will cover 100% of the cost for the newly eligible for three years. Kentucky can cover hundreds of thousands of its citizens at no cost.
- An infusion of \$11 billion dollars into Kentucky would do wonders for our economy. That money is not paid to Medicaid recipients, but rather to local healthcare providers. Those dollars flow into the economy as indirect spending and boost the state budget through tax dollars.

That is only a fraction of the many reasons why expansion is a good idea for Kentucky. We hope you will agree with us and work with Secretary Haynes and Governor Beshear to move forward with the expansion.

White House Clinics stand ready to work with the Department for Medicaid Services to expand our capacity to provide comprehensive primary care services to newly Medicaid-eligible Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



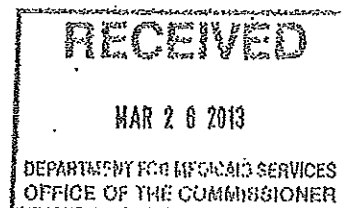
Stephanie Courtright Moore, MPA, CMPE
Chief Executive Officer

Email: CynthiaG.Timperio@ky.gov
114 North Second Street
Williamsburg, Ky. 40769
Phone: (606) 549-3380 Fax: (606) 549-3362

Whitley County Health Department

March 25, 2013

Commissioner Lawrence Kissner
Cabinet for Health Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621



Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Kissner:

I serve as Public Health Director in the southeastern Kentucky county of Whitley. I would like to express my support for the Medicaid expansion available under the Affordable Care Act. With at least 621,000 Kentuckians uninsured, I understand that over 400,000 of these could obtain Medicaid coverage. With the high Medicaid match in our state, and the fact that the expansion will not cost the state of Kentucky anything for several years, it would be remiss of us not to embrace this opportunity!

I believe the infusion of federal dollars would also bolster our Kentucky economy. The indirect spending associated with payments to the healthcare providers will be a real plus in our Whitley County area. As you know, the eastern and southern counties of Kentucky are the most distressed counties economically, and tend to see the worst health outcomes. This Medicaid expansion can be real help to this area.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter, and please know that I support them. I look forward to a brighter, healthier future for Kentucky!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Gail Timperio".

C. Gail Timperio
Public Health Director
Whitley County Health Department



April 1, 2013

Re: Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Klissner:

The Women's Crisis Center strongly supports expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kentucky. The Women's Crisis Center is an emergency services shelter for survivors of domestic violence that serves northern Kentucky. We are part of a network of crisis shelters across the state that served 23,865 survivors last year. Many of the individuals seeking our services do not have health insurance. Expanding Medicaid will directly impact a survivor whose health is a priority on her journey to self-sufficiency.

The Women's Crisis Center provides services to Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, Grant, Pendleton, Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties. The 2010 census data shows that if Medicaid were expanded to 138% of the poverty level, 23,953 of these individuals in our northern Kentucky service area would become eligible. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured found that 329,000 would become eligible for Medicaid in Kentucky. This is an increase of 57% of uninsured individuals receiving coverage, the largest of any other state.

According to a survey of uninsured Kentuckians, many are using all or most of their savings toward healthcare. Others without proper health insurance are not filling prescriptions, seeing specialists or simply skipping much needed medical treatment.

Please join us in promoting a healthier Kentucky by supporting this expansion.

Sincerely,

Marsha Croxton

Marsha Croxton
Executive Director
Women's Crisis Center